HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 24 July 2014

The SPEAKER (Hon. M.J. Atkinson) took the chair at 10:30 and read prayers.

The SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land upon which this parliament is assembled and the custodians of the sacred lands of our state.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2014

Estimates Committees

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (10:31): I bring up the report of Estimates Committee A and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

Ms BEDFORD: I bring up the minutes of proceedings of Estimates Committee A and move:

That the minutes of proceedings be incorporated in the Votes and Proceedings.

Motion carried.

Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (10:32): I bring up the report of Estimates Committee B and move:

That the report be received.

Motion carried.

Mr ODENWALDER: I bring up the minutes of proceedings of Estimates Committee B and move:

That the minutes of proceedings be incorporated in the Votes and Proceedings.

Motion carried.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (10:33): I move:

That the proposed expenditures referred to Estimates Committees A and B be agreed to.

Ms CHAPMAN (Bragg—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10:33): I rise to speak in response to the estimates committee reports which have just been tabled by the member for Florey and the member for Little Para. I thank each of them for their service as Chairs of Committee A and Committee B during the course of this process, which is an important process.

The SPEAKER: Is the deputy leader the lead speaker?

Ms CHAPMAN: No. It is important particularly because the government is asking us to approve under the appropriation the moneys for the various portfolios of responsibility which they have and which they have presented in the Appropriation Bill. The purpose of estimates is for the parliament to convene a committee, which is represented here in the House of Assembly by members of the government and members of the opposition, at which the various ministers and senior members of their staff and their departmental heads and the like, are invited to attend and appear before the committee and provide the detail upon which the expenditure that is proposed is to be approved.

It is an important exercise for two reasons: first, so that, obviously, the parliament can be satisfied in approving and supporting the Appropriation Bill that it is money that is going to be well spent and, secondly, very often to give the department the opportunity to present, via the minister or directly with the minister's consent, the programs they propose in the forthcoming year, together with

It is also an opportunity for them to provide that detail and present their credentials to the parliament on these programs and the proposed expenditure for the benefit of South Australians. Those who read estimates and who are interested in a particular program or proposed expenditure on that basis can go to *Hansard* and get some detail of that. Some ministers and their departments are very good at achieving this objective and some are not; this year was no exception. There was a wide spectrum of performance, and I wish to refer to a few of them.

It is important to remember the format of estimates having been established is very different from that which applies in the Senate in the commonwealth parliament. In fact, there the federal budget is presented to their Senate estimates and members of the departments and senior personnel from Treasury attend and answer detailed questions about the expenditure and/or proposed expenditure, and it is quite a forensic and long-term examination. Here, it is the sanitised version; it was not supposed to be.

When this was first established as a formal process under premier Tonkin, in his time as premier, when he wanted the parliament to have an opportunity to examine the budget expenditure it was a very different process. What it has become, though, is an avenue for some of the ministers to effectively quarantine information from the public—quite the reverse of what it was supposed to be. They do so in two ways: the first is not to answer any questions or, if they do, only a few; and the second, of course, is that, notwithstanding having brought an enormous number of senior personnel into the parliament, their knowledge and expertise are kept quarantined; that is, they are not given an opportunity to respond to questions.

Let me start by stating, however, that I think the estimate process is important. The way the government is failing to answer or refusing to answer questions is concerning, but that ought to be something that the parliament itself actually expresses its view on. I am now, as a member of it, expressing how disappointed I am. Let's start with those committees I was present for and contributed to, either representing the leader or the party.

First of all, in relation to the Premier I make the point that the Premier's time for examination in one committee was scheduled at exactly the same time as that for the Treasurer. Our leader, because largely the budget is a financial matter, elected to ask questions of the Treasury and very effectively did so. As the government refused to schedule the Premier separately, it was necessary for other members of the opposition to be involved.

The most stunning example of what I would say is the current state of the government was the Premier's confirmation that he had appointed Mr James Hallion, who is the chief executive of his department, as the private sector development coordinator. If ever this was a damning indictment of the current government it was when he described to the committee that the purpose of this appointment was for Mr Hallion to receive submissions for projects to a value of over \$3 million from those from the private sector who are stuck in the system.

I am paraphrasing his position, but his exact words were 'for those who were stuck in some system'. This should tell the Premier himself that it is his own government, it is his own administration, which has created a situation where he now needs to put someone who is the head of his department in charge of identifying these projects by a submission and sifting through them. The detail of the process has not been outlined but, nevertheless, he is going to be somehow attached to the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Transport or personnel will be attached to him to be able to facilitate this.

We did, of course, have Rod Hook, who was in charge as the chief executive of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. He was sacked by the Premier and paid out a total of over \$350,000, including funds that had to be paid for his early dismissal under his contract. The government had plenty of money to pay out somebody they did not want, and they put in Mr Hallion as the private sector development coordinator. This just tells us how this government being able to navigate the rules and advance projects for the betterment of the state. I think it is a damning indictment.

The Deputy Premier, Attorney-General and Housing and Urban Development minister also appeared before the committee at which I was present. The Courts Administration Authority is an area of responsibility of the Attorney-General. His Honour Chris Kourakis, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as head of the CAA, attended and outlined the government's progress of the courts precinct. The biggest disappointment with that, of course, is that there is no money in this year's budget to be able to advance it, but I was pleased to hear from the Chief Justice that he is still participating in a program to develop the design and terms of reference for the invitation for expressions of interest.

The Supreme Court, the District Court, the Coroners Court and the Environment, Resources and Development Court (which is part of the District Court structure) are to be housed in the new facility. It is expected to have a second tower accommodating government justice departments, and all of that seems to be progressing. I thank him for his service in that regard. He obviously outlined cuts that his department is expected to make and the consequential effects they may have on the progress and timely movement of justice matters, including trials in courts. It is disturbing.

Nevertheless, probably the most concerning aspect that came from the Attorney-General's Department was the reaction from members of the profession and the public regarding the government's announcement to privatise the Motor Accident Commission and its announcement to—before they do that—raid it and take the money. It has resources of over \$2.5 billion dollars. It took \$100 million last year, purportedly for road safety measures, some of which have not been completed, and this year it is anticipated that it will take \$500 million, put it in the Highways Fund and use it for general expenditure. What is to happen to the rest is yet to be determined but it is pretty clear that the funds in the Motor Accident Commission, which should have been used to compensate road accident victims, are now going to be used to fund road upgrades.

The response from the public could not have been more clearly put by the Law Society when it wrote to the government on this matter, saying, 'The SA government has been less than honest on this with the people of this state' in respect of its announcement to privatise the insurance scheme, strip off entitlements in legislation last year and, of course, raid the loot that has accumulated in it. That has been a damning indictment.

We have no further information on the future of HomeStart. It is obviously a big income earner for the government. Treasury has done some reports but the Deputy Premier indicated to the committee that he did not have any understanding of what the future of HomeStart was going to be. He had not been consulted, he had not been told about the Treasury investigation and he did not know anything about it. So it seems to be a sort of Sergeant Schultz situation for some of our ministers, as will be evident as we go along.

Minister Gago, the Minister for the Status of Women, presented to the committee in respect of women's matters. It was disturbing to me that minister Gago was not prepared to make any comment or inquiry in respect of what happened to Jacqueline Davies, who was the prisoner at the women's prison found shackled for endless months. It seemed to be of no concern to the minister what happened with her, it was a matter for Corrections, yet it was a very significant issue at last year's estimates.

That is concerning, because it indicates that minister Gago—whilst I think she actually has some genuine personal commitment to the advancement and recognition of the status of women generally—is very quick to move to the easy and cheap options when it comes to women's advancement, and helping women to get into non-skilled employment. Well, hello; women have been in mining, farming and other, what she presents as non-feminised, employment, but she moves to these things.

The hard issues are reading the Coroner's report on the murder of people such as Robyn Hayward, and the subsequent police shooting of Mr Durance, who shot her. These were damning coronial reports, followed more recently by the Abrahimzadeh coronial inquiry into that stabbing and resultant death. These should tell the government that its safety framework and its meeting on domestic violence, and discussions with the Premier's Council for Women, are not enough; they simply are not enough.

For the minister not to be concerned or even able to detail to the committee the provision of domestic violence training and rehabilitation for domestic violence offenders, I find most disturbing. I ask the government, as I do every year, to give some serious attention to these matters and ensure that year after year we are not going back to the parliament without any serious attention to the improvement of the plight of women in these circumstances.

I conclude with Mr Mullighan, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. I represent the opposition on infrastructure matters and the member for Mitchell represents the opposition in respect of transport matters. In the portfolios to which I contributed in the committees this is one of the biggest in government in monetary terms, and also employs an enormous number of people; not as many as health or education or the police department, but in monetary terms it supervises and provides for the development of infrastructure in the multi millions of dollars every year.

It has been about \$1 billion a year—this year it has dropped down to about \$600 million and it is a very important portfolio, so it was very concerning to me, as a member of the committee, that the new minister, who has been appointed since the election, was, frankly, unable or unwilling to answer almost every question posed by the committee. I asked most of them, along with the member for Mitchell—it seemed that the government members did not have any questions to ask, and that is fine—but question after question was put about issues in relation to the management of commercial assets, the leasing arrangements of government properties, areas of responsibility in respect of the planning of infrastructure, and each one was met with 'We'll take that on notice,' 'I don't know,' 'I don't know about that.'

Sitting around the minister were probably some of the most senior public servants we have in this state, people such as Mr Andy Milazzo, the new Acting Chief Executive. There were probably 12 or so seated in the committee, and we had more in the audience. These people are very senior and very experienced, and in my experience they know what they are doing. They are very, very familiar with the projects they have been asked to manage and develop, yet Mr Mullighan, the minister, chose to repeatedly say 'I'll take that on notice.'

He had an army of experts sitting next to him. These people are paid hundreds of thousands of dollars. They are good at what they do but, almost without exception, they were not invited to make a contribution to the committee. I find that very concerning because in that, I think, about an hour and a half that we had, what was extraordinary to me was that there were a staggering 40 occasions when the minister took the question on notice. I look forward to seeing the answers.

He is a new minister. He has to be given some understanding, as he may not be personally familiar with a number of the projects that have been worked up and developed by the government but, when you have an army of people sitting around you who know what they are doing and who otherwise provide briefings individually and who are very experienced and they are not even called upon to make a contribution to the committee, that is obstruction, that is obtuse behaviour and that is unnecessary. It does not augur well for the future of the parliament, yet the Premier keeps saying that his government is open and transparent and wants to be forthcoming.

The other thing that is puzzling to me is how it is that, when you have the opportunity to give that information, you would not be proudly saying to the committee, 'We are proposing this expenditure. This is a really important program; this is what we intend to do with it,' and actually be proud to tell the parliament about what they are proposing—but, no.

The extraordinary example I give of this sort of buck passing through this estimates committee this year was when we asked questions of minister Rau, as Minister for Housing and Urban Development, because the head of planning—he also has planning—Mr Hanlon, had taken over from Mr Hook to be in charge of the planning and development of the Riverbank Precinct. We also asked questions in respect to the Festival Plaza announcements of the government.

Minister Rau says, 'No, that is not in my portfolio. You need to get some information from others.' When the Treasurer was asked about the Festival Plaza precinct, he said, 'You need to get that information. The best person to answer that is the Minister for Infrastructure.' So, yesterday, we asked the Minister for Infrastructure about the particulars of the \$46-odd million that has been announced to develop the Festival Plaza precinct behind Parliament House. He does not have a

clue. He does not know. He says, 'No, I am not the person to ask on this. You have to ask someone else.' In that instance, 'You have to ask minister Rau.'

So, we go on this merry-go-round of ministers, all of whom pass the buck. Nobody wants to talk about who is going to get paid in the Walker Corporation for the development of this site. There have been announcements. There have been requests for more information about this development. It directly affects us here in the parliament as a tenant for future car parking at the Casino in the ASER precinct and, of course, the Festival Theatre. The government are happy to make an announcement in January or February this year about what they are going to do but, when it comes to answering questions, nobody seems to know about it, so we get sent on this endless merry-go-round.

I can only hope that minister Mullighan in particular, once he gets a bit more experience under his belt, will realise that the parliament is the ultimate arbiter on these things, that the government is accountable to the parliament and to the people of South Australia, and that a level of arrogance, a level of disdain toward the committee—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

Ms CHAPMAN: —is not acceptable or welcome.

The CHAIR: Member for Morphett.

Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (10:53): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Can I congratulate you on the way you chaired the committees that I had the privilege to be on—an iron fist inside a velvet glove, ma'am. We did have a couple of differences, but that is the estimates committee. This was my 13th estimates committee—lucky for some.

I am not here to criticise or complain about the committee, just to explain that there are still issues that we have with the way the estimates committee is run. I understand, though, that the government has appointed one of their members to have a look at that. I just hope that that is going to be a parliamentary inquiry rather than just an announce and defend the system again, because we do not want any announce and defends, and there was some of that during the estimates with some of the issues that were announced in the budget, but I will talk about that a little bit later.

The concern for me, though, was the reduced time that we had—and I remember what some people might say were the bad old days when we worked very long hours late into the night in this place. For example, the health estimates, a \$5.5 billion budget, was examined in basically about four hours. I will give credit where it is due, though. The health minister did not have government questions. There was a relatively short opening statement. The Minister for Emergency Services went along the same lines. He gave quite a long opening statement in the disability portfolio where we only had 45 minutes for the whole of the disability sector.

When you look at the values of these various departments, the impact on the state budget, that is a lot of money to be examined in a very short time, and there are literally hundreds of questions going in on notice to the various departments just from my portfolios alone. I will be interested to see how long it takes to get those back and whether we get them back. I hope I do not have to do what I did with one minister which was to send the minister a first birthday card because I had questions that had been there for over a year. I will do it, and I will make sure we do it publicly. I want the system to work, I want the people of South Australia to get the information.

The reduced time was one thing. There were a couple of ministers who gave unnecessarily long opening statements, and I think that is something we have to look at. Whether you call them Dorothy Dixers, set pieces or government questions, they are questions where a lot of the information is already on the record. A lot of time was taken up. If the minister is proud of what they are doing, if the minister is proud of the way the department is working and the way the budget has been set, then they should allow and welcome any questions from members of the opposition.

They should not be afraid to come into this place armed with all the briefings they have. I congratulate the public servants for the work they do, for the hours and the millions of dollars in time that must be spent on preparing those briefings. I know as a shadow minister, having been involved from our side of it for many years now, the hours our staff spend. I thank Heidi Harris in particular,

one of my staff, for the extreme effort she goes to in a forensic examination of the budget papers. As I have said before, the budget papers are the height of prestidigitation, they are sleight of hand, they are meant to conceal more than reveal what is going on in the budget, and that is why the estimates process is such a vital process. I will defend the right for us to maintain the estimates process—whether we can improve it, whether we can expand it, whether it goes to another place, that is something I think the parliament needs to look at, and we have said that many times before.

I will quickly go through my portfolios. The other strange thing about estimates is that even the virgins of the estimates committees, the newbies who have come in in this last parliament, know that it is a particularly interesting arrangement where if you have a shadow minister in the other place, they cannot come down to the estimates committees to ask questions, so that is delegated to another shadow minister. In my case, it has been everything from Attorney-General's which was interesting being a non-lawyer—and by saying that I am boasting, not apologising—right through to, as I have had to do on a couple of occasions, the health portfolio. I have had the health portfolio here as a shadow minister and we ran it again this year as the representative of the Hon. Stephen Wade in the other place. It is bizarre that the ministers can come down from the other place but not the shadow ministers, so I think we really need to start looking at that.

I had the health portfolio as part of my responsibilities this estimates. As I said we had about 3½ to four hours for a budget of over \$5 billion. There is nothing more important to each and every one of us. As much as our families, it is our own personal health. As members of parliament, we work long hours, we are under a lot of stress, we are expected to perform 24 hours a day seven days a week, so we need to look after our health. We have doctors, nurses, health professionals and all the hotel staff in our hospitals who work extremely hard, so to see this government trying to shift the blame across for what are quite savage cuts to the federal government when we know that they have over a billion dollars of their own cuts is something that is deplorable. We did not get the time to examine that in detail with all the other issues that needed to be raised in health.

The issue that sticks out at the moment is obviously the nearly half a billion dollars—I think it is about \$430 million, which, by the time you add on bits and pieces, is close to half a billion dollars—for the EPAS project. That has been put on hold. We warned them about it. I have been asking questions about EPAS, Oracle, EPLIS, ESMI, all the other enterprise systems that have been put in place in our hospitals for years now, in Auditor-General's and in estimates. However, we still see this government ploughing on with the systems that have been shown interstate and overseas to not work. Doctors and nurses here have been telling the bureaucrats and ministers that the systems have issues. Minister Hill and now minister Snelling have to stop listening to the spin doctors and listen to the real doctors and make sure that they do understand what is going on.

The other big issue that is very particular to me, being the shadow minister for veterans affairs, is the Repat hospital. I could not get a commitment from the health minister that the Repat will stay open. We do not know whether it is going to be downgraded, or whether it is going to become an annex of the Flinders Medical Centre, for want of a better description, and, certainly, Tanunda hospital was another one there. If this government wants a world war III just touch the Repat, because veterans are a huge part of our community, a valuable part of our community, particularly with the Centenary of Anzac. Leave the Repat alone. Just leave it alone. It is a very good service. It does need improvement. The buildings are a bit of a rabbit warren, but the emotional support, never mind the physical support for veterans' health that is provided by the Repat, is something that this government will touch at its peril.

I will go straight into veterans affairs on that, because the new Minister for Veterans' Affairs would not give a guarantee either. In fact, he tried to shift the blame across to the federal government, which I found rather surprising, because the Repat hospital is in his electorate and he is the local member for that area. I know the Minister for Veterans' Affairs is a military man and that he has a distinguished service record. He should know the value of the Repat to the veterans not just for their physical and mental wellbeing but also their emotional wellbeing. It is a symbol of what they have been through. It is almost like a war memorial.

To have this government, the health minister and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs not giving a commitment to this place, not giving a commitment to veterans, not giving a commitment to South Australians, that this hospital will stay open, to me is an absolute disgrace. They try to shift the blame

across to the federal government. We know that they are paying \$30 million a day in interest on the debt that has been created, so they are under the pump just as this government claims it is under the pump, and we know they are, because they are paying \$3 million a day in interest on their debt. To try to then have the veterans as collateral damage in this is something that is not going to be acceptable to anybody.

The issue of mental health for veterans in South Australia will keep increasing as veterans come back from recent conflicts, everywhere from the Solomon Islands, East Timor, Iraq, and Afghanistan. More and more veterans are being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress and mental health issues. We need to look after our veterans and their mental health. The Repat is part of that, and also expanding it to the Lyell McEwin hospital is another important part of that.

With veterans affairs, the big thing that has been put out there, as well as supporting the centenary of ANZAC, is the Anzac Centenary Walk from the War Memorial on North Terrace to Victoria Avenue along Kintore Avenue. It will cost about \$10 million. Both federal and state governments have raised expectations here for veterans. They have put out the colour brochures, and now they have to deliver. This Minister for Veterans' Affairs needs to go and talk to his federal colleagues to make sure that they are both on the same page because veterans cannot be let down by weasel words or some other scheme, some delay, or anything like that. We need to make sure that veterans are getting what they deserve, and that is for all of us to remember what they have done for our country.

Moving onto disabilities, the big thing with disabilities is that we are moving into a new era with the NDIS. That is going to be something that we look forward to with great anticipation. Once again, like the veterans with the Anzac Centenary Memorial Garden Walk, we have raised expectations in the disability sector and we now have to deliver. It is going to be very, very expensive. The issue with this, though, is that there are significant differences between the numbers of potential recipients that the state department is coming up with and what the federal actuary has come up with. The difference is many hundreds of dollars between the state and feds, so we need to sort that out, because what we have to deliver will be expensive. I think the total budget is about \$1.5 billion for South Australia by 2018-19, but if you are doubling the numbers that is an issue we had better get on top of straight away.

The payments to individualised funding participants right now is an issue. The minister assured the committee there are no cash flow problems, but the bottom line is that there were people out there who had no cash. Why? Because they were not getting paid. The department had delays in processing—there was some issue there. The minister has given the committee and this place the assurances that that will be fixed, but it is an issue and we need to make sure that the individuals who need that support are not being put under extra stress because of bureaucratic delays or inefficiencies in the system.

The screening costs of volunteers and employees of disability services is another area where the government just does not get it. Talking to one NGO that provides quite extensive services for a disabilities group, I was told that their screening costs are going up for their volunteers and employees by \$250,000 on top of what they are paying now. Was there any discussion? Was there any consultation? A couple of days notice was all they got. Announce and defend! We were promised 'no more announce and defend' by this Premier. What do we have? We have volunteers, NGOs, disability services providers, Riding for the Disabled, they could go under if they are forced to keep paying these extravagant increases in costs.

I will talk a bit more about that in a moment, but I ask the Minister for Social Inclusion whether there was any discussion—what consideration, what social impact studies were being undertaken on the services (the value of the services) and support that these many groups give to South Australia and South Australians. It is not just about the money but about that social impact as well.

We talk about social benefit bonds. We heard the Premier talking about them before the election, and we have seen no movement on that yet. It is something we support—and we support all sorts of groups and programs—but here we are seeing an increase in the levies, the taxes on people who want to volunteer, people who want to do their best for people with disabilities. The big

thing with disabilities is that it is a bipartisan area, we will try to do what we can to be as bipartisan as possible, but do not raise expectations and then fail to deliver.

Minister Piccolo also has emergency services. Emergency services in South Australia: again this government just does not seem to get it. They just do not value our volunteers. We hear the Minister for Volunteers say that volunteers put \$5 billion in kind into the South Australian economy every year. I would like to know what it is in terms of the CFS, with the many thousands of hours the volunteers put in. To see their funding basically being cut in real terms—and we know the fire services funding has gone down in real terms for the last four or five years.

This government cannot expect our emergency services to be forced to have more and more efficiency dividends placed upon them, and then have their funding cut as well. It does not work. You cannot get blood out of a stone. If you want the emergency services to work, the way they are suppose to work, they way they want to work—and let us remember that when most of us are running away from a disaster or an emergency, these are the men and women who are running towards that emergency to save our souls, to save our houses and to save our families—we should be valuing them. It is something that this government just does not seem to get. Whether they are paid firefighters or in the CFS (and I am a proud member of the CFS, as are many members on this side), the SES or Surf Life Saving—you can keep going on—all those volunteers in our emergency services are priceless. Let us not penny pinch when it comes to providing these services.

The good thing I heard the minister say is that he is not inclined (I assume that means a no, and I will be questioning him and watching very carefully) to have one service model for fire services, because while the volunteers are happy to work well with their colleagues in the MFS, they are very proud of that brand, and that needs to be maintained. I know there are certain sectors of the union movement that are pushing for a one-service model. I would like to see the financial modelling on that, and I would like to see how they are going to make it work. I just do not think they are seeing the wood for the trees with that. We have the Holloway review but we do not have the Ernst & Young review yet. We are looking for the Ernst & Young review on emergency services.

Moving right along to Aboriginal Affairs, this is another area where we are very bipartisan. The big issues we had there, though, is that minister Hunter is the fifth minister we have had. We have the Aboriginal Lands Trust—and I congratulate the new members there. Their report is late, but that was because the Auditor-General had to go over their finances. I am not blaming the Auditor-General; it may have been some other issue. What comes out of that is that perhaps the Auditor-General should be looking at all the funding for APY and Maralinga Tjarutja as well, because certainly issues have been raised there.

We know that AARD has been shifted from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet across to the Department of State Development (DSD) now, but it seems that the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion do not know who has what responsibility. When you ask questions about food security, the APY task force and the bush tucker gardens, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs said it was DCSI; I asked the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion and the minister said, 'No, that's in Aboriginal Affairs.' They had better sort it out, because these are very important issues. These are multimillion dollar issues that need to be sorted out.

We are still trying to find out how much money is actually spent globally on the APY— 2,500 people. We understand it is about \$200 million. The annual budget in South Australia for Aboriginal Affairs is \$1.3 billion, but let us sort out who is responsible, because you cannot keep buck passing on the issues of who is funding and who is responsible. With power comes responsibility; with responsibility comes accountability.

There were several big issues with the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, but the big issue for most South Australians is the cost of screening. We have seen evidence in the last few days of how people will get through, but it is important that we have a very robust—well, it is very important we have a robust screening process, but it is also important that it is an affordable screening process for those at the grassroots.

Volunteers should not be discouraged from volunteering because they have to keep paying and paying and paying. The service providers should not be forced to keep paying and paying and paying, because without them what is the government going to do? What are they going to do if the service providers fall over because of increased costs, increased taxes and increased levies? What will you do? You had better think about the consequences of your actions.

The people who support the parliamentary process in here—we make the laws, we set up departments, but it is all those volunteers and NGOs out there who really make the state work. We think we do, but without them this state would not work. We had better make sure this partnership is something that is locked in and valued, because it is a very valuable partnership.

The other issue that came up with the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion was obviously the concessions and advice for Seniors Information Service. We found out in this estimates that the price has gone from \$600,000 to \$5.8 million—\$600,000 to \$5.8 million. We also found out that there were 569 customers who were overpaid \$311,157. It is still not working all these years later, and it is a massive blowout in the cost. There are so many costs.

I have one final point in my last few seconds: neither the Minister for Health nor the Minister for Social Housing, who is under communities and social inclusion—neither of them have the courage to say that the Clovelly Park issue is a public health issue; they cannot deny it.

Time expired.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:13): I rise today to give my address in regard to the windup of the estimates process here in the parliament. I know we have only had a couple of speakers so far, but estimates is an interesting process, and it is all the better—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the worst Chinese term.

Mr PEDERICK: I thank Madam Deputy Speaker who is agreeing with my presumption, I think. We all view it as an interesting process and, Madam Deputy Speaker, you were there for a lot of it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of it in here.

Mr PEDERICK: All of it.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN: Half of it.

Mr PEDERICK: Yes, in one chamber anyway, so Madam Deputy Speaker is well aware of what goes on during estimates and chairs those sessions very well. But what I will say is that some ministers are definitely better than others.

An honourable member: It's a very small few.

Mr PEDERICK: It is a limited number, but what I will say, to all the ministers, in whatever estimates—and I have not done a full study of both committees—to the ones who gave a very short lead speech or did not wheel out Dorothy, that dangerous government dinosaur that just takes time and asks those Dorothy Dixers—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Government questions.

Mr PEDERICK: I firmly believe that estimates should be the chance for the opposition to raise vital questions. We have limited time anyway, and for the government to obfuscate and have their members ask the Dorothy Dixers I think is a terrible waste of time. The long lead-in speeches are a waste of time. If the government wants to have these internal discussions, I am sure they have their party room meetings where their questions can be raised and they will probably get more answers than we do. Be that as it may, I will commend the ministers who did let us have the floor, even after a long lead-in speech at times. I certainly, from my end, as the member for Hammond, appreciated that.

The committees that I was involved with were environment, water and natural resources, primary industries and regional development. In environment estimates there was long lead speech and then we proceeded to questions. I got on to the question about prescribed burning and the minister tried to fob it off and say that it was not a problem, but over many years now we have seen the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), or whatever its body was called in previous times, go out and take a prescribed burn. I know there was one in Messent several

years ago that was supposed to burn about 25 or 26 per cent of that park down at Keith and they burnt three-quarters of it.

Another issue I raised in the estimates was about the recent fire in the Gawler Ranges, which also overachieved. When I say 'overachieved'—and I used this term during the estimates process—that is not a badge of honour; that is when a fire gets out of control and goes behind the containment area that you are supposed to control it in.

I have had a bit of experience, as a member of CFS and a farmer, of fighting a few fires, lighting a few fires in burn-offs and also controlling fires, so it is disturbing that as time goes by we still see these things happening. What concerns me is that because of cuts to the staff numbers involved in the Department of the Environment, Water and Natural Resources, what is going to happen in the future? We will have less control—less control.

For all the people who think wonderful things are happening out there in the environment and it is getting looked after properly, I do not believe it is. I certainly understand the need for controlled burns. I have witnessed and seen some terrible fires and the results of them in Billiatt Park and Ngarkat. Ngarkat, I have mentioned in this place before, is like a magnet for lightning. With less staff I think we are going to have massive issues into the future.

Just on that, I will quote what the minister said when I kept questioning about prescribed burning and the problems with them getting out of control in national parks. The minister actually thanked me for recognising that DEWNR is overachieving. He said, 'That is what we try to do—over-deliver for the public.' If that is success, I think the minister needs to have a good look at the *Hansard* and what he said, and have a real good look at how they manage park fires, because it is not the idea to overachieve in managing fires in parks, as far as prescribed burning goes.

Obviously, a whole range of questions was asked about where we are going with the environment department, and it looks like more park rangers are going. The minister would not guarantee what was happening, so that means there are more park rangers going. I think there are 88 now, but there were several hundred in previous years. Again, it shows that this government has scant regard for our national parks system.

I was also involved in the agriculture estimates, primary industries. Again, we see through the budget process that over the last couple of years another 121.8 jobs have gone from agriculture. When I was questioning the minister about the estimated result from 2013-14 to the actual result, I could not get an answer. I made the point during the process that we have 900 staff in PIRSA but that no-one was in here for the estimates process who could tell me why there was a vast difference between the estimated result and the actual result.

The government will always come back—and I have seen it before with other budgets—and say, 'No, it was only this number.' But, hang on, if you have budgeted for a certain number of staff, those positions should be made up. So, it is a cut whichever way you go about it. Also debated in the estimates was the lowest spend in agriculture in 12 years of this Labor government in relation to the net cost of services. The minister tried to fob this off by saying, 'No, that's the net cost but the total spend is \$221 million.'

That may be right according to the budget, but as far as the net cost—what this department is prepared to put into agriculture, \$59.8 million—that is the least amount this government has spent in 12 years. However, I will look at the \$221 million spend. That is made up of employee benefit expenses, supplies and services, depreciation and amortisation expenses, borrowing costs, grants and subsidies (and I note that includes a federal funding grant on the income side of the budget and commonwealth revenue of just over \$76 million), and intragovernment transfers. So, like anything with the budget, it is about how you read it and how people perceive it.

It certainly is disturbing that, again, we have more job cuts and more money cut out of agriculture. We have seen it happen over the last five years, where hundreds of jobs have gone and at least \$100 million cut from the primary industries spend. We know that this Jay Weatherill Labor government, when they deal with Olympic Dam, the new expansion (the second expansion did not happen), all of sudden say, 'Oh, we're reliant on agriculture,' yet there is no money going agriculture's way, not in comparison to what the Premier is saying to us that he believes the input from agriculture is for this state. I think it is time the government took a good hard look at what happens out there in

regional areas and sees how vital agriculture and primary production are, being the backbone of the economy.

However, after saying that, we see that the government is getting rid of another two research centres. Flaxley has been empty for years now—it has obviously taken a long time for people to work out how they are going to get rid of it, and it is on the market; now, sadly, we see Lenswood Research Centre on the market, as well. Both these centres have been vital centres as part of our research programs into dairy and horticulture in South Australia. Flaxley is listed as one of the assets that will be sold as part of the \$680,000 income side from sale of assets. I note from the year before there was a deficit of I think \$57,000 from selling a vessel and a trailer, so one would hope that the asset sale program might be a bit more successful.

The sad thing is the assets sales that are being looked at now, these vital research centres, and it makes me really worry about the future of Struan, a research centre at Naracoorte, which I know the government has been running right down. It makes me worry about the future of Turretfield, and I know that Minnipa has been talked about out in the regions, and people are worried about whether that research centre will go. That would be a real tragedy, and I cannot quite see how the state can do that because, as far as I understand, it is part of the national framework of grains industry research, but anything can happen with this Weatherill Labor government.

It was interesting that when minister Bignell went into one answer about clean and green and selling product to China and other places he mentioned the GM-free status of South Australia. He was talking about the supposed benefit and, before anyone gets too excited about what I am about to say, we on this side of the house do support investigation and we do support a moratorium on GM cropping. But after the minister had finished that commentary, when I asked what sciencebased evidence there was and what work had been done to show that the state actually has a real benefit from GM-free, he answered, 'Oh, it's anecdotal.'

If we are running a state's agricultural production system on anecdotal comments, that really worries me because there is a whole range of anecdotal comments out there in the public sphere. I think the minister—we well know his bent: he is waging a war, I think, against Monsanto—is doing this based on anecdotes. His department obviously had not done any work on whether or not being GM-free as far as a marketing tool is beneficial.

I certainly know that you will get other people in politics, and it might be the Greens, who will say that Japan will not take GM canola. Well, that is a lie because they are already taking it from Canada co-mingled, where they co-mingle it: they put GM canola and traditionally-bred Canola together. I would like to see the government do some more work. They need to talk to their researchers out at the century-old Waite area about the work they are doing in regard to agriculture on all scales, whether it be traditional breeding or GM breeding, and perhaps get the minister up to speed on what is happening around the world.

I also asked quite a series of questions about ovine Johne's disease testing and the effect that can have on sheep producers in this state. I appreciate that the adviser was a vet, I believe, and his comments were that people are not put into quarantine from a screening test but that it does affect their market, so obviously it affects profitability. The responsible person has to make a clear decision that he does not want to upset the wool industry any more, so people who have had these notices—that have not been proven, it is just a screening test—in regard to testing for OJD will take a big hit. The sad thing is at the ram sales they will take that hit, but there is no compensation, and that is very sad.

I could go on, but time is running away and I need to talk about regional development. This is a very interesting time with the new Minister for Regional Development. He gave quite a lengthy lead-in speech—it was about 13 minutes.

Mr Griffiths: 13¹/₂.

Mr PEDERICK: It was 13½ minutes, I am reliably informed by the member for Goyder who did a great job during the estimates process just staying alive. I have mentioned this before, but I must say that I have seen some interesting performances by ministers over the eight years I have been here, and this was the worst performance of a minister I have seen in regard to estimates. We

managed to get up only limited questions in the time, after the long lead-in speech. Then we had the Dorothy Dixers from the government's side to fill in time as well. Then we saw that the advisers did not even have the obvious answers to the Dorothy Dixers lined up ready for the minister. It was very difficult to get many answers at all to our questions.

A very big issue that was raised was about core funding for regional development associations. This is a huge issue out there. What the regional development associations (RDAs) out in the field are telling me is that a lot of them had been living on their savings for the previous 12 months, as far as the financial year process is concerned. These people are really looking down the gun with respect to how to fund their core activities—this is a business about opening the door in the morning and running your office—and they are using up their cash reserves.

I am reliably informed that one of the associations that deals with Geoff Brock's (Minister for Regional Development) own area, the area of Frome, Mid North and Yorke, thought that they were going to close their doors. I wonder whether there is a special deal being done to prop them up to keep the minister going.

The minister told us in estimates that boards were all signed off—that their CEOs had signed off on the deals for this \$1.6 million—but the information I am getting is that the boards basically had a gun held to their head and were bullied into agreeing to the way it had to be done. It is all linked to grant funding, and people are going to have to be very creative with their grant funding applications to make sure that they retain staff, keep them on the ground, so that they can run projects. It will be interesting to see whether this has been placed on every government department. If they had to rely on grant funding, it would bring a whole new paradigm to the way government works.

What I have heard also out there in the field is that, allegedly, advisers have been telling minister Brock that the RDA has never had core funding, which is a blatant lie because they did, and that is how they operated. If that is what has happened, that is an absolute disgrace. These advisers are making this big money and are telling Geoff Brock when to get out of bed and when to go to work. They need to have a good look at what is going on.

In the last couple of minutes before closing, I want to say that I did challenge the minister about why he has not come out to Murray Bridge to have a look at the Gifford Hill project. I asked him soon after he was made the minister to come out; I rang him personally. I know that he was out there once when I was in a meeting with him, and then he was out there last week with some chief executive officers. But then he said, 'No, I can't get out,' and I said, 'Well, I'm free next week,' but who knows whether or not we will see him.

Sadly, I think the biggest problem with what Geoff Brock negotiated with the Premier when he was the member for Frome (and I did raise this in estimates) is that he asked for only \$39 million for regional funding when he could have matched the \$139 million the Liberal Party had put up, and he would have done a far better deal for regional South Australia and perhaps we would have got that \$15 million funding that the Liberals had up as a policy for the racing club development in Murray Bridge, which would have provided funding for up to 1,000 jobs over time. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, but it has been a disappointing estimates time.

Mr PENGILLY (Finniss) (11:34): I intend to have a few words to say about the estimates process. Like other members, I was absolutely ecstatic; I could not wait to get here Wednesday for my day and a half of the estimates process. It was the highlight of my parliamentary year! I know that some on the other side had the delirious experience of having five days in here. As it turned out, our time was restricted on this side. Indeed, the new members since the election had the distinct advantage of being able to sit in on most of it, which was very good for them. I am sure that members got a lot out of it.

The member for Hammond made some mention of the session the other day on regional development and local government, etc. I sat in on the regional development estimates with the longwinded statement from the minister. My view is that these statements should be done away with by both sides and we should just merely ask questions. I find it totally ridiculous and a complete waste of time to sit there and listen to 13, 14 or 15 minutes, whatever, of dissertation, that is, a minister reading a prepared statement verbatim, and then they are singularly unable to articulate answers to questions without copious communications with their public servants.

Indeed, in one hearing I was in, I did a count of the number of public servants sitting here and it is no reflection on them whatsoever. I counted 60 ministerial staffers and public servants for one minister. The top gallery was chock-a-block full, the Speaker's gallery had many and there was a number on the floor. I think it was 58, actually, to be perfectly correct. I find it ridiculous to have 58 people sitting here and a minister who was not able to answer any questions.

It concerned me, on the regional development scenario, that the minister seemed unable to answer the simplest questions. Indeed, he could not even give the rate of unemployment in his own area for that regional development board and the Upper Spencer Gulf, which the member for Goyder asked him, and will no doubt articulate on when he gets his opportunity to speak.

I found that disappointing. I like the Minister for Regional Development. He is a nice fellow and a decent fellow and I have had many good chats with him but, in my view, he is unable to pick up and he is getting done over by his staff, ministerial advisers and public servants at every opportunity. He needs to get out there and be himself and put things in order. I find it unfortunate that that is the situation.

I need to also pick up on the member for Frome (the Minister for Local Government). I have great concern about some areas of local government in this state and, sadly, my greatest concern at the moment is currently for a council in my electorate, that is, Kangaroo Island Council. I intend to have more to say about that in a debate coming up in the near future, but I am wondering where it is going to end up. Successive local government ministers have failed to deal with what is going on over there. My view is that the LGA is, to some degree, incestuous and they prop up failing councils without dealing with the core issue.

I have witnessed over the last few years an ongoing culture of bullying and intimidation within the Kangaroo Island Council. This worries me deeply. It is not going away. In fact, even this morning I have had further evidence of that and I am not going into that today. In the last three years, over 30 employees have left the employ of Kangaroo Island Council—of a total of 64—for various reasons, many of them stress related, and I will have further things to say about that. It needs to be dealt with.

I urge the Minister for Local Government to use his best judgement on this matter. I intend to sit down with him in the near future and talk about it, but I intend to flesh it out even further in this place. It must be stopped. My personal view is that the council needs removing and an administrator—I am not talking about a commissioner—needs to be put in to sort it out once and for all so we can go forward, because it cannot continue as it is. That is a challenge for the Minister for Local Government. How long he remains in that position is unknown. We have had a succession of local government ministers. I am sure he will remain in that ministerial position until whatever happens happens, but it worries me.

I think, likewise, we are going into the local government election scenario where nominations close in a few weeks time in September. There are people starting to shoot their hands up around the place. I heard a radio interview with somebody the other day who is intending to stand for Unley council, which I found interesting. In a sign of the times, the former mayor of Victor Harbor, Mary-Lou Corcoran, has stuck her hand up and said she wants to be mayor down there again. I think the community will make those judgements and it is not up to me; whatever happens, happens there as well.

It also concerned me that, at any given opportunity, the current federal government got the blame for just about everything. There was never any mention of what happened under the former prime ministers Rudd, Gillard, Rudd or the incompetence of the former federal government and the fact that it had to be cleaned up. If there is something wrong in somebody's department, apparently the current federal government is a part of it. You need to move on with this. It is not their fault. I know the budget for the federal government has been a tough sell and there could have been ways that they could have changed that, but that is their call, not mine.

What I see is a federal government that is intent on setting the agenda. The repeal of the mining tax was a godsend for South Australia and Australia—an absolute godsend. Let me say also that I believe that last week, when those horrendous events occurred in the Ukraine, Prime Minister Tony Abbott did an absolutely outstanding job in dealing with that, and he was supported by Bill Shorten, the federal opposition leader, in an appropriate manner. I believe we have an outstanding

Prime Minister who articulated a response and acted particularly well and also included the foreign affairs minister Julie Bishop, who seems to have been around the world in about three days. So, it concerns me that the federal government does get the blame for everything.

I attended the hearings yesterday with the Minister for Social Housing and the minister who is also the Minister for Volunteers, and I want to return to the volunteers in a moment, but social housing is a big issue in my electorate, as it is in other members' electorates. Once again, we do not seem to have a clear strategy on where we are going there. This morning, I had a phone call from a very, very concerned senior government agency representative on Kangaroo Island who is pleading with me to speak to the minister to stop having dysfunctional families sent to the island.

They cannot help being dysfunctional or having been abused, I totally understand that, but they are still sending people to the island where there are not the support services necessary to assist these people. It is just not there. They may get it in Victor Harbor—there are more services there, just speaking about my electorate—but to send them over to an isolated community where they cannot be dealt with appropriately and cannot be looked after and given the care and support they need is most inappropriate. It has to stop. I will say more about that in the near future as well, I think, because it is something that needs to be raised and put on the floor of the parliament.

We had quite an interesting little session on volunteers yesterday afternoon, and I would like to tie the Minister for Volunteers in with the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Emergency Services, and perhaps the rest of the cabinet. I had a phone call from a volunteer and then I met with another volunteer the other day who told me, 'Did you hear what has happened with the parks passes?' For the benefit of the chamber, parks passes are something that members of CFS and SES are issued with: a family parks pass which enables them to go into some of the national parks for their volunteer contribution—a great idea.

I said, 'Well, I understood they are continuing on as normal,' and this particular CFS volunteer said to me, 'That is not quite right.' He happens to be on KI, again, I am afraid. I said, 'What's going on?' He said, 'Well, I took my family to Flinders Chase,' which happens to be the biggest park on the island with the best camping and plenty of attractions and walks, etc. I said, 'What happened?' He said, 'I was told the parks pass is not applicable. You can't use that in Flinders Chase.' He also mentioned a couple of parks on the mainland, the names of which escape me, and I will source that.

What sort of spin exercise is this, coming from the government? They say, 'Here is a pass to allow you to participate in enjoying the national parks,' yet you cannot go to these particular parks. This is the biggest park on the island and it is a place that people have been going to for generations, well before the current situation has evolved. That is also something that I ask members opposite to give consideration to. If you are going to give out a parks pass, it should be applicable to all parks. Country people do not have public transport, they do not have this, they do not have that and they do not whinge about it—well, not too much, anyway.

The fact of the matter is, if the government wants to put out an exercise such as a parks pass for volunteers, for heaven's sake, make sure it allows them to go into the parks. No-one wants to go to Seal Bay. That is referred to as some sort of headquarters down there and no-one wants to go there very much. It is not a very great experience these days, I am afraid, but they do want to go to Flinders Chase. For a family to go down there, have a barbecue or camp down there overnight or do the walks, such as the Platypus Walk, or go to West Bay down to the arch, the rocks, because of their service as a volunteer with CFS, I believe is most appropriate. I support that, but I do not support cutting out certain parks.

In relation to the Department of Environment, I also talked about the ongoing penguin issue. Let me say that I am fully supportive of the efforts of the Mayor of Victor Harbor, Mr Graham Philp, who is a fine mayor and deserves to be re-elected, in my view, but that is another story. He is a fine mayor and he has made a passion of the penguin issue—the lack of penguins on Granite Island and the visitor experience. He deserves more support from government than he is getting and I think he deserves to have recognition for his efforts in doing that and he should be brought to the fore. We all know penguin numbers are disappearing. There are various reasons why. They are pelagic feeders which means they go into deep water, but that is not to say they do not clean up a percentage of the fish in shallow waters as well.

I am no expert on penguins, but the huge increase in the number of fur seals, which is natural, is indicative that the problem of reducing penguin numbers in some areas will not go away. Some of those areas in particular are in my electorate—Granite Island, Victor Harbor, Penneshaw and Kingscote where the penguin numbers have really dropped away dramatically, but mayor Philp is passionate about this. He has put a lot of work into it and he deserves all due recognition and support for his efforts in trying to maintain that penguin population community down at Victor Harbor.

I would also like to thank very much my staff member Hannah Cohley who did a huge amount of work on the budget in preparation for questions, which I was able to use. Hannah is a highly skilled, highly intelligent young lady who does a fantastic job and I am delighted to have her.

I would also like to speak about the way I listened to and related to the contributions by two ministers—the Treasurer, Mr Tom Koutsantonis, and the new transport minister, Stephen Mullighan. All I can say is that the Treasurer had better watch out because he is coming to get him. He is going to make mincemeat of him in due course, in my view, when eventually what happens happens and the current Premier is moved on.

The transport minister was highly articulate in his efforts in the estimates committee. He did not seem to need to refer to public servants at any time; he answered questions and took things on board. He might have been a bit too much of a know-all in some cases, but he was articulate, and I think that the Treasurer needs to watch his back really closely. However, that is for the government to sort out.

I turn to the Veterans' estimates. I listened to the Veterans' estimates input with some interest, but I did not get a lot out of it apart from the concerns about the Repat Hospital. I turn now to the Attorney-General's estimates and the Kangaroo Island Futures Authority—and this just amazes me—which comes under the jurisdiction of the Attorney-General.

Earlier this week I got a phone call to ask whether I was going to the KI branding launch last night in Kingscote, and I said, 'Well, I don't know anything about it.' As luck would have it, I had an email copy of an apology put in by the federal member Jamie Briggs, who was unable to attend, so I tried to do a bit of checking up on what was going on. I communicated with the KI Council CEO, Mr Boardman, who said yes, he was going, but they were not involved. I said, 'Fine, thank you very much,' and contacted the KI Futures Authority to see what was going on. They said, 'Oh yes, there was something on last night,' and oh yes, I can get a brief about it.

So, this morning, I received two phone calls from island people to say, 'Why weren't you at the KI brand launch last night? It was bigger than *Ben Hur*.' I said, 'Well, it's pretty simple: I wasn't invited.' Now, we may not be in government, but I actually work in this parliament for the residents of my community, and I find it disgraceful that the Attorney-General should have—

Mr Griffiths: It's a shame.

Mr PENGILLY: It is a disgrace that the local member—I do not care whether it is me, but if the government's agencies or officers have removed the name of the local state member from invitations purely for personal reasons I am disappointed, because that is not what it is all about. As it turned out, I could not have gone last night, but I could have sent—

Mr Pisoni: For spite.

Mr PENGILLY: Yes. I could have sent a representative. I enjoyed a workshop a couple of years ago on the KI brand proposal, but I find it a sad state of affairs when personalities are actually dragged into this and local state members of parliament are excluded by a minister's—I am not suggesting it was the Attorney-General at all, but acolytes or whatever you may care to call them. I think that needs putting on the record.

Last week, the Minister for Emergency Services gave a briefing on the island. The headline in *The Islander* this week was, 'Minister visits; Holds talks on emergency services structural reforms.' I attended that, and I introduced the minister; I did the right things and said the right things, but quite honestly, it was something of a joke. The other headline on the front page says:

The local organisations are under-budgeted now and they want to save more money-

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This is the government—

The volunteer services here on the island will be keeping a close watch on what they are doing.

I put it to the minister that he went there not knowing what he was trying to sell—I did that in the meeting and got a lot of applause. It is a sad situation when the minister has been put on the rack to save money, yet he does not know what he is selling, and volunteers are going to be at the forefront of any collateral damage from this exercise.

My view and that of the volunteers—and many of them were there that night—was that the firefighters union were trying to grab complete control and take over all emergency services operations, management and everything else. They are mightily concerned about that. Once again, they are volunteers. I had this battle about 20 years ago, so it is disappointing that the minister has been put in this position and cannot actually tell us what he wants to achieve apart from a 1 per cent saving. So, Madam Deputy Speaker, the estimates process was a failure in my view.

Time expired.

Mr PISONI (Unley) (11:54): We have heard a lot of comments this morning about the government using this estimates as a shielding exercise. I think it is the first time that I have seen such an extensive number of shielding efforts by the government. It appeared to me to be a coordinated effort between those who were chairing the committees, the government members asking the questions, the ministers, and the ministers' advisers, and if you look at the budget you can understand why.

The budget comes from a background of broken promises in a record deficit of \$1.2 billion on top of a \$1 billion deficit last year. Of course, do not forget that back in 2011 this government promised that this year the budget would return to a surplus of \$480 million. There has been an enormous turnaround in that period with the government racking up \$14.3 billion of debt which it is now responsible for.

If we remember, the government said that this spending was all about creating jobs and then we see last week that South Australia has overtaken Tasmania as being the state with the highest unemployment rate in the country. Every month a vacancy report is put out by the Department of Employment and yesterday there was more bad news with it telling us that there has been an increase in job vacancies in every state, averaging 10 per cent over the last 12 months, but here in South Australia we went backwards. We were the only state that actually offered fewer opportunities for people to work compared to any other state or territory—even Tasmania—over the last 12 months.

We are in a situation here in South Australia where, on every economic measure—and you just need to look at our NAPLAN results and our training results, with the lowest number of training commencements in the September quarter last year, with cuts of \$90 million in a single year to training through the Department of State Development—we are in a very, very poor way when it comes to opportunities, particularly for our young people here in South Australia.

I made the point in my opening remarks with the Minister for Employment that we are very fortunate to have found a very capable trainee in our electoral office. We were having a conversation just the other day and she said that the job she got at the Unley Electoral Office was the 150th job that she had applied for since completing her two degrees—her 150th job she had applied for here in South Australia. We were pleased that we were able to secure her, but what an enormous burden for our young people to go through to get a start in life, and I think that it is important that we remember how significant our first job is to get a start in life.

South Australians have been extremely patient with this Labor government. They have been promising deficits, they have been promising jobs. Remember the 100,000 job promise back in 2010? What the government has delivered, of course, are massive debt levels and their failure in all main economic and social indicators—whether they be employment, education, debt or taxation.

In theory, estimates provides the opposition with an opportunity to conduct a detailed examination of state spending, but in estimates on Monday, Mr Hunter in the other place—the Minister for Environment—spent 14 minutes on an extended ministerial statement in an allocated 30 minutes, and also used that time to go to the toilet, instead of answering serious questions on

contamination that have been the focus of community concern for the last three weeks here in South Australia.

We should remember that it only came about because the Liberal Party, the member for Dunstan, the Leader of the Opposition, raised those questions in the parliament. It was confirmed that the government knew for a substantial period of time about the contamination issues and it was also confirmed, of course, that there was no rush to deal with the issue, even though they were planning to evacuate people from their homes, and they had not placed people in homes that had been vacated for several years earlier because they had no communication strategy or a 'spin' strategy in place to deal with that. Of course, the minister was flanked by 21 taxpayer-funded ministerial and departmental advisers for what amounted to probably 20 minutes of parliamentary questioning from the opposition.

The Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills likewise had 22 personal department staff in attendance to witness her mainly reading from a series of prepared answers to Labor committee questions that they had obviously spent weeks preparing for. It would be nice to see not only greater transparency but, to be quite honest, ministers who are capable enough to be across their portfolios to actually have a go at defending and explaining their budgets when asked questions by the opposition in the parliament.

The Minister for Education outdid herself and I think held the record for all ministers when it came to blocking access to opposition questions. There is no doubt that the Premier's claim for an open and transparent government was severely clouded by the education minister's denying the opposition any reasonable time to ask questions or even to get a flow on questioning with supplementaries on important issues.

A quick analysis of *Hansard* shows that there were 4,000 words answering questions from the opposition and 9,000 words answering questions from government members—extraordinary filibustering and an extraordinary attempt to block any scrutiny of the budget by the opposition, particularly in regard to the education budget.

Ministers, like the Minister for Education, want to regularly complain about just how many FOIs the opposition puts in and the cost that is to taxpayers, but I put it to the minister that simply answering questions would save the taxpayers an enormous amount of money. The minister's job is to answer questions, rather than instruct her staff to concoct questions that attempt to belittle her opponents, whether they be the member for Unley, whether they be members of the public, whether they be other commentators on education matters, and focus on answering serious questions about education policy and the budget.

Unfortunately, with the record of this Labor government for covering up their mistakes and sweeping management and controversy under the carpet, FOIs do become the only option for those who want serious answers from this government. Ministers should make things much simpler and simply answer the questions. It would be nice to see not only greater transparency but, to be quite honest, ministers who are capable enough and across their portfolios enough to actually have a go at answering those questions.

Sadly, the revolving door of ministers in my portfolios—the education minister is our third minister in four years and the employment and training minister is our sixth minister in six years—is an extraordinary situation, but I am sure there is a reason that there have been six training ministers in six years. Maybe there is just confusion about the role of the training minister, maybe the government thinks that it is that portfolio that trains the minister, but in actual fact the role is responsible for the very important area of employment and training.

I will use this opportunity to take offence on behalf of the Custom Coaches staff who were told by the acting employment minister on the radio that they needed training. These are some of the most highly skilled tradespeople in the country, and the minister's answer for them when they lost their jobs was that they need training. That is an insult to any tradesman, anybody who is dedicated to craftsmanship and who has spent their life delivering some of the highest quality work that comes out of somebody's hands in the country. People do not want training, minister. What people want are jobs and unfortunately under this government those jobs are simply not there; those opportunities are not there. In an ABS report into the availability of labour here in South Australia, under-employment rates for South Australia show that 2.8 million hours every week are available for employers. In other words, there are 2.8 million hours available from South Australians who want the work and want the income, but the opportunities just simply are not there for them to be paid to deliver those hours. I am sure there is plenty of training for them, I am sure there is plenty of volunteer work for them, but what they actually need is to be able to put a meal on the table; they need to earn a salary, a wage, an hourly rate so they can be independent contributing members of society.

I think we need to look at some of the budget items that were discussed during the estimates process. We learnt that efficiency dividends were brought forward by 12 months in the education budget, despite what you hear from the education minister, that there are more savings happening in her department with the state budget than she is prepared to admit. An amount of \$223 million of savings was put in place in the education sector even before there was a change of government in Canberra, which also includes the child protection budget.

That whole portfolio, if you recall, was the brainchild of the Premier, to put that altogether: education and child protection. We are the only state, the only jurisdiction that does that. It is a model that was inspired, I think, by Keith Bartley and the work he did in Oxfordshire in the UK, and we saw what a disaster that delivered last July, with the conviction of half a dozen or so serial rapists associated with their child protection system.

The Magill education precinct—remember that big promise during the election? The budget tells us that that is nothing more than a feasibility study; \$250,000 available from 2014-15 and then nothing. Two years of dashes with no figures in them, so there will be a feasibility study. We know how notorious the education department is for consultants' reports and feasibility studies. They commission them, they have them done, but then they do not act on them.

Peter Allen was very clear in his review on just how wasteful the education department has become in its management style. I think he identified hundreds of thousands of hours a year of meetings with no outcomes. He identified that different departments within the education department work in silos. I think he also identified that those in management roles in departments ignore the directives of their immediate managers and just go on and do what they like and there is no reporting process or follow-up. Quite frankly, it was a mess. The Allen review described an absolute less. Now this week we learn of the horrific news of more children in the care of the government who have become victims.

The new city high school—remember that debate during the election? I think anyone would have expected that the \$85 million announced by the government would be new money, but the budget tells us that \$54 million of that money was already there and that it has simply been taken from other projects. It was yet to be allocated so we will never know who missed out, but I am sure that an increased number of principals who applied for capital grants and capital improvements will receive refusal notices this year.

Investing expenditure is down nearly \$77 million from the previous year, a tremendous dropoff in new spending in our schools. I think it is fair to say that there has been a consistent amount of money spent on new schools over the years, regardless of who has been in office, but we are now reaching a stage where we are seeing the biggest drop off—certainly that I can recall—in spending on new buildings in schools.

Of course there was also the announcement during the election of a new teacher renewal program, and during the estimates process we learned that there are still legal difficulties with the last program. Back in 2011-12, I think, the government offered a \$50,000 bonus—which was effectively a cash bonus because they got a tax exemption through the ATO and it was gazetted in the federal government *Gazette*—that enabled teachers who did not meet minimum standards to apply for this \$50,000 and receive it virtually tax-free. Another round was set up to go in 2013, I believe. The exemption was granted and gazetted, but it did not go ahead because there was a challenge, through the Equal Opportunity Commission, regarding the discriminatory nature of the program. We learnt that that challenge is still pending, yet it was announced as an election announcement by this government, that it would do that again.

Of course, the minister was unable to answer. In last year's estimates we did not have a chance to go there in more detail; this year, because of the shielding of the minister by government members, the minister was unable to answer how it is that a teacher can continue to get registration every three years, when one of the requirements of registration is that the teacher must meet minimum standards, yet also qualify for a tax exemption based on the fact that they do not meet minimum standards. It is an extraordinary situation that we have here in South Australian, and we will wait with interest to see what happens there.

We also learnt that the minister is still being kept in the dark on important issues. It came as a complete surprise to the education minister that Mr Harrison had written, and also published, an apology to Jan Andrews for defamatory comments that he had publicly made about her involvement in the so-called Debelle inquiry, and also that there were legal costs dispensed by the Department of Education. Her initial response was 'No', but then she was corrected by Mr Harrison. I am sure there was a briefing after estimates about the full details of that.

So we still have that culture that was identified by Mr Debelle, the culture that was identified by Mr Allen, and the culture that will no doubt be identified in any new royal commission into the latest child sex offences on children in government care in South Australia. Things simply do not change. The culture here in South Australia has been entrenched, and if you look at the perpetrators of that culture it is the Premier, who has been responsible for child protection for a large period of his time as minister, and, of course, the Minister for Education who confirmed, in the estimates, that she too has been responsible for child protection for this government over a long period of time.

Just quickly on TAFE, we learnt that TAFE had already reduced staff by about 400 since it was corporatised in 2012. We also believe, through the estimates process, that staff will be reduced from the current 2,600 down to about 1,800 by 2017-18. We are still waiting for details to come back from the minister on that, but we believe the minister has been briefed on it.

As I mentioned earlier, vocational education training funding has been reduced from last year by \$90.5 million, a significant drop.

Time expired.

Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN (Stuart) (12:14): It is a pleasure to rise on behalf of the people of Stuart and make a few comments about the estimates process we have just been through. I will touch separately on each of the six portfolio areas I represent on behalf of the opposition, but let me first just say that I share a lot of the concerns that my colleagues have already raised and I am sure future speakers from our side will raise in regard to the process.

There are enormous frustrations with a system that is set up, on the face of it, to provide information, but a lot of time, effort and work by the government have gone into actually trying to prevent the release of a lot of information as well, so that is a terribly frustrating situation. Let me also say that, until we can change it, it is the system we have, and every opposition member should take full advantage of it to get as much information as they possibly can. While we are frustrated in our efforts to get all the information we want, it is still an opportunity to get as much as possible, and that is certainly the vein in which I entered my questioning of the six different portfolios.

I was fortunate enough to support other members in police, corrections, road safety and emergency services—portfolios I held on our behalf until recently—and those new shadow members certainly made good progress there. I would also like to quickly put on the record my great thanks to my staff member Mr Chris Hanna, who is the other half of our team here in Parliament House in regard to the work we do in our office. He is an exceptionally capable, exceptionally hardworking young man who does a great job and, I think, stands head and shoulders above his peers, who are all very good, by the way. I think he should be very proud of the work he does when confronted by dozens of ministerial staff on the other side.

The first portfolio I would like to touch on is state development. State development is, of course, a very worthy cause. Why would anybody not be keen on state development? It is quite a natural thing to do, so there is no harm in the government having a portfolio for state development, a Minister for State Development and goals for state development.

The problem is that there are six ministers responsible for 13 programs, each of which have multiple sub-programs all tied up in state development. While minister Koutsantonis certainly expressed a different view when I was asking him about this in estimates, I remain exceptionally concerned for our state's development when I know that those six ministers do not all hold the same views and do not all share the same values on a lot of issues. They are all actually competing, ideologically and financially and commercially for their own areas.

I am not confident that the government will be able to merge all these other operating departments and ministers' offices into state development. There is minister Gago, minister Snelling, minister Koutsantonis, minister Hunter, minister Hamilton-Smith and minister Close, and I am sure it is going to be difficult to wrangle them all together.

Minister Hamilton-Smith is already on the record, before he was a minister, as saying that he thought it was a dog's breakfast, essentially, and that it was chaos and confusion that could never work. I do not believe that he will have changed his mind. I believe that he will change the things that he says, but I do not believe he will have changed his mind, and I suspect that at least some of the other ministers involved will hold similar views although, of course, they would not have expressed them in the way that minister Hamilton-Smith did before he decided to join them. That is my main area of concern in regard to state development. It is no doubt a very worthy cause we certainly support in opposition, but we would certainly be putting in place a much more cohesive model than the government is pursuing at the moment.

I will move on to mineral resources and energy, held by minister Koutsantonis, who I know takes a very strong personal interest in this portfolio. He has held it in one form or another—departmental name changes have happened, as have perhaps some responsibilities—since February 2011, and I know that he has a genuine interest in this area. He is also very fortunate to be in the position where his local people's lives, businesses and opinions are not relevant, because they will not be affected by mining, gas, oil and energy developments.

It is very easy for the minister to say, 'I am making decisions in the state's interest and I have had to weigh it all up and I am terribly sorry I am not actually putting a lot of credence in what locally affected people have to say.' It is relatively easy for the minister to do that because he and his government hold very few electorates where people are affected. Certainly Giles is the exception to that, and I think that the member for Giles is likely to find himself in a difficult situation within his government team dealing on this issue.

Let me say also that the Liberal opposition is exceptionally supportive of our resources and energy sector. We want it to thrive, we want it to go ahead, we want it to have every opportunity to create the jobs and the economic benefit that our state deserves by unlocking those resources. There is absolutely no doubt and no equivocation about that whatsoever. Of course, we have the job that the government does not have largely which is to consider our constituents as well, and we do not shy away from that difficult situation.

We are not just going to wash our hands of the constituents and say, 'It is all in the state's best interests so I am not really going to listen to your concerns.' We are not going to say, 'These people on the whole usually vote for us and so we are going to throw the other side of the argument away and just accept whatever local people say.' We will be very actively involved in those difficult discussions. We will represent the people of country and outback South Australia to the very best of our ability and we will also do everything we possibly can to contribute to the growth of our state's economy by unlocking those resources. We will not shy away from that.

It is very easy for the minister to say why don't we jump on board with him? Why don't we just take his view and do what he has told everybody is the right thing to do? Well, it is an easy thing to do for him because he actually has no direct responsibility for those people. We take the job very seriously and we, as local members and as a shadow cabinet, and I as a shadow minister, will deal with those issues one by one responsibly and work our way through to the best outcomes and the best result.

There is no doubt that land access is going to be a very challenging issue in this area as time goes on as mineral, oil and gas companies and other energy companies like hot rocks potentially and other areas of interest are looking at resources closer into country areas. It is going to be a

difficult issue and certainly landholders, land managers, have every right to put their views forward, and we will consider them exceptionally seriously. I am sure, just like the government, we will never sacrifice the environment. We will not sacrifice the environment for these developments. We need electricity, gas, oil, minerals for export—we need all of these things—so it is a very difficult challenge, but we will not walk away from it and just take the easy path the way the government has done because it does not have the same interest in local people that we do.

I will move to small business now. During estimates minister Koutsantonis was keen to put out his connection to small business—his parents ran a small business, and no doubt he contributed to it as a family member—and I think that is tremendous. Let me also put on the record that it was not very long ago that I was washing dishes, repairing tyres, sweeping forecourts, making beds and doing all those sorts of things in my own small businesses in outback South Australia, so this is an area that I feel very connected to.

Let me say clearly, the Liberal opposition supports small business exceptionally passionately, and it is not because we want small business owners to get rich. It is okay if they do and, in fact, we are very glad for them if they do, but that is not our reason. Our reason is that we want small businesses to be successful so that small businesses can employ more people, so that small businesses can offer secure employment, so that employees can go to banks to get mortgages, or a car loan, or pay for books for their kids schooling, or put meals on the table, all of those regular things that families need to be doing.

If you do not work for a successful company you do not have secure employment. If you do not have secure employment, your options in life in terms of how you are going to look after yourself and your family start to pull up pretty quickly. That is why we support small business. Small and medium-sized businesses are the largest employment area in our state and nation by miles. That is why we want to support them.

I am particularly concerned to find that quite a number of programs that existed previously have been taken out of this year's budget for small business. We have been told that they have been put into the broader jobs, Our Jobs Plan, and the broader desire to increase jobs. However, if you do not have focused programs, if you do not have programs that target jobs in small and medium-sized businesses particularly, you will not achieve the same results in that area, so that is something that is particularly concerning for me.

I also would like to comment on an area that the minister would not comment on. I understand some of the reasons, and I disagree with some, but some of them I do agree with. It is an area which the government will eventually have to provide some answers to, and it is with regard to the Small Business Commissioner and allegations that he has been, at least temporarily, stood down from his work due to bullying. I cannot say that that is the case because I do not know that, but I am trying to find out that information. I certainly do have an invoice which shows fees charged from the Crown Solicitor's Office to DMITRE for investigation into exactly that.

I invite the minister and the government to share the information, to tell everybody exactly what is going on so that, ideally, the Small Business Commissioner can get back to work. The very best result here is that we find out that they were false allegations, that there was nothing wrong. This is a man I have had several meetings with and had very good engagement with, and I have not found him to be a bully, but we do deserve to know what is going on.

The Small Business Commissioner did not attend estimates. The Deputy Small Business Commissioner did not attend estimates, and another man—and I apologise, Deputy Speaker, I cannot remember his name—from the Small Business Commissioner attended estimates with the minister. I even offered for the minister to share the information privately, in confidence, to give me some security that everything was okay, and then I would leave the issue alone. He was not able to accept that offer, so serious guestions still need to be asked.

In terms of manufacturing and innovation—and I am running out of time here, so I will have to be brief with the next three portfolios—I was very concerned to find that, while there are 80,000 jobs tied up in manufacturing at the moment, our manufacturing sector is under great stress. There is no doubt that, with the loss of Olympic Dam and Holdens and the potential loss of future submarines, future frigates, our manufacturing sector is facing many challenges. While there are programs to increase employment in the manufacturing sector there are no targets, no KPIs, no measurements in place to determine whether those programs have been successful. I said very clearly to the minister, 'How will you know if you succeed if you are not actually aiming to achieve any specific targets?' And the minister said, 'Well, we know the areas, we know the ways, we want to be heading in the right direction, but we don't have targets.' I agree that we want to be heading in the right direction, but you will not achieve if you do not have targets, and that is something that provides me with a great deal of concern.

Unemployment in our state is now the highest in the nation. The last number put out was 7.4 per cent. Every other state in our nation has lower unemployment than we do. This is clearly a vital area. Small and medium-sized businesses, manufacturing and innovation are the areas in which we really have to focus to try to make sure people have secure jobs into the future. That has to be one of the most important priorities of any government: to provide an environment whereby businesses can offer secure employment, but if you do not test yourself with targets, if you do not as a government say, 'We aim for this program to achieve these specific results,' it is very unlikely that those programs will achieve the best results they possibly could.

Automotive transformation: many of my comments would be very similar to my comments on manufacturing and innovation. I pay credit to minister Close, because she, in our discussion about automotive transformation and the funding for that program, very clearly, very concisely, put her personal views on the record about the interrelationship between state and federal government funding, without needing to waste lots of time and make political points and be trying to bag all sorts of people. She did an excellent job. She did not beat around the bush; she said very clearly where she was happy and very clearly where she was unhappy, but she did not need to go into a whole argument, as other ministers have, trying to blame other people incessantly.

I, like every member of this house, would seek, welcome and be grateful for more federal government funding into every area of our state—there is no doubt about it. It does not matter what it would be: if we could have more federal government funding into areas of development that are needed in our state, I would welcome it. I certainly ask for it regularly, and I do not blame the government at all for asking. However, many other ministers have been trying to blame the collapse of the auto manufacturing industry in our state, and other things, on the federal government.

Even minister Hamilton-Smith, before he changed teams and became a minister, used to tell the government, 'You can't blame the federal government, not everything is the federal government's fault.' But, of course, now he is in the state government, he said several times in estimates that it is all the federal government's fault. It is amazing how quickly he manages to change his tune. With cars, and Holden specifically, for complete clarity I remind the house of the comments in *The Advertiser* on 15 January by Stefan Jacoby from General Motors, Mr Mike Devereux's manager, as I understand it. He said very clearly that it is impossible to make cars here and stated:

The decision to close the factories would have happened anyway. It is fundamentally impossible to produce vehicles in Australia.

Regardless of commonwealth funding—and, yes, I would always welcome more of it—we were going to face this challenge anyway. It is duplicitous of the government to try to blame the federal government for it.

The last portfolio I will touch on—defence industries—is an exceptionally important portfolio, very typically bipartisan. I have every intention of working as well as possible with the government in this area. It is a very exciting area, and one about which I am learning an enormous amount at the moment. It is absolutely vital that we put as much stock on this industry as possible, because it is one of the core foundations of our manufacturing industry in this state, and it also goes towards our national security with regard to our ability to do our own servicing and our own maintenance of our own defence fleet, and I will make more comments on this industry at another opportunity.

Time expired.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS (Davenport) (12:34): I rise to make some comments in relation to the great joy of estimates committees. It could well be my last opportunity to comment on estimates committees, which is one of the great tragedies of leaving this place. Maybe I will come in and watch just for old times' sake.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will still be here.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: My view on estimates is that they are a valuable form of keeping the government to account. I think the parliament would probably be better served to go to the federal system of estimates. Regardless, there does need to be some system of questioning the government about the budget and where it intends to spend the money. What is clear following the estimates committees is that, essentially, the government's budget is in trouble, and it is in trouble for a number of reasons: primarily because of a lack of discipline on behalf of the government and primarily because it does not value or understand the small business sector in this state and how to give it confidence to employ, which would generate extra revenue for the state through a more buoyant small business sector.

If you stand back and look at what this government has done over its 12 or 13-year term, essentially what the government is saying to the South Australian business community—and let us be clear that the South Australian business community is about a 95 per cent small business community; most South Australian businesses employ less than 20 people. Essentially, what the government is saying to the South Australian business community is: "We want you to pay the highest taxes in Australia, we want you to pay the highest workers compensation rates in Australia, we want you to pay the highest water rates in Australia, we want you to pay the highest electricity prices in Australia and then we want you to go out and employ and grow your business.'

The reality is that if you go out and speak to small businesses out there—and virtually all of my family are involved in small business in one way or other—essentially, they are on hold because of a number of reasons. First, they do not want to employ more because of the complexities of employment law as it now stands. I accept now that is primarily a federal issue with the industrial relations system going federally.

The new occupational health and safety laws are confusing and create uncertainty, and people are not going to put themselves at risk if they are uncertain, and that is just the truth. There are groups out there that are not employing as much as they could or are not employing because they simply do not understand the risk with the new occupational health and safety laws. Then there is simply the cost of whether you can actually generate enough business to recoup your costs of employing extra staff.

The tragedy for South Australia is that we have a government that really pays scant regard to what is the most important sector in the state, which is the small business sector. If you look at what the government has done, essentially it has sold income-producing assets for the state, whether that be the forests, the lotteries or soon to be the Motor Accident Commission. I suspect there will be some other sales in future budgets between now and the 2018 election.

Having sold the income-producing assets, we are still running budget deficits. In fact, we are running the highest budget deficit in the state's history this year of well over a billion dollars. The billion dollars is more than we got for the sale of the forests and the lotteries together. They have spent that or added that to the debt just in one year's overspend. So, we have sold the income-producing assets—the forests we have had for 100 years and the lotteries for about 40 years. We have offloaded them and, whatever benefit we gained in debt reduction, the deficit this year exceeds it, so it is total economic mismanagement in that regard.

Of course, they are now going to offload the Motor Accident Commission. 'No privatisations' was the promise before the election: 'We won't privatise anything; not the Labor Party, we won't privatise anything.' So, we are now going to privatise the Motor Accident Commission, according to the Treasurer.

Of course, the reason we had to change the third-party compulsory insurance scheme in the last parliament was that the Motor Accident Commission scheme was 'unsustainable'. It was unsustainable to continue to give injured drivers and passengers the level of support that had been in place through the compulsory third-party scheme for decades. The government mounted an argument that it was simply unsustainable, and the insurance scheme—the compulsory third-party scheme could not afford it. So the parliament changed the compulsory third-party scheme.

What do we find months after the election? What we find months after the election is that the Motor Accident Commission has north of \$500 million—some media reports are suggesting \$1 billion—in excess funds. It was that unsustainable. The Motor Accident Commission has somewhere between \$500 million and \$1 billion in excess funds generated solely out of the insurance scheme and investments of the insurance scheme.

What the government told this parliament about the state of the Motor Accident Commission and the unsustainability of the scheme was a crock—was a crock. What they told the Labor Party caucus was a crock, and I suggest the Labor Party caucus starts asking some questions about why they were told that scheme was unsustainable, because what the parliament has done is gone out and cut benefits to injured motorists on the basis the scheme was unsustainable. If the scheme was unsustainable, how did it end up with \$500 million to \$1 billion excess capital 12 months later—just 12 months later?

What this government has done is essentially abandon the target of having a AAA credit rating. As the previous treasurer, treasurer Foley said, if you abandon the AAA, you will end up on a spiral of debt. He was absolutely right. Treasurer Foley was not right on too many things; he was right on that one. The reason he was right on that is very simple. As a former shadow treasurer, I think I have some authority to speak on this. The one discipline that the shadow treasurer has, or indeed the Treasurer has, at the cabinet table or the shadow cabinet table, is you cannot keep on spending forever because it will affect your credit rating, which will affect interest rates, which feeds into higher costs for taxpayers over many years.

Treasurer Foley used to sit at the cabinet table and argue about the level of expenditure and maintain some discipline on expenditure to maintain the AAA credit rating. As soon as you get rid of the discipline of worrying about the AAA credit rating, then expenditure flows freely. It is worth noting that the biggest deficits the state has had have been since we announced we were getting rid of the AAA credit rating.

Go back to before, when this government was saying it was going to keep the AAA credit rating and there were smaller deficits, indeed some surpluses. Since they announced they were getting rid of the AAA credit rating, the deficits have been the highest in the state's history—around \$1 billion deficits. This is, of course, on the operating balance; this is not the lending deficit. This is on the operational side of the budget, not the capital works side of the budget.

These deficits of \$1.2 billion are not building roads and Adelaide Oval; these are simply running the departments. This is a government that has sold income-producing assets to run record deficits simply to run their departments, because they have lost their financial ticker. They have lost their financial discipline to rein in expenditure and control the government programs.

You only have to look at this budget. It is absolutely no different to what Premier—then treasurer—Weatherill produced, what former treasurer Snelling produced. What they produced was 'We are going to have big deficits now, but don't worry, there's going to be a miraculous turnaround at some nirvana point in the future.' That is exactly what Treasurer Koutsantonis is outlining to the house, and the house simply should not believe it.

What they have promised in surplus and deficits has been staggering. In some years they were promising an \$840 million surplus but delivered a \$479 million deficit, a \$1.2 billion difference just in that year alone. This is a government that has lost its economic management. It has lost its financial discipline and it has lost its way as to what it is doing with the economy. It has actually lost its way.

What is this government's economic story after 12 years? What is it? It is not the great promise of Roxby Downs. I remember treasurer Snelling's opening lines in his budget speech saying that South Australia would be a very different place in 20 years' time, there will be all these trucks and miners and everything, and Roxby Downs will be up and running. Of course, that evaporated into thin air.

The reality is in asking: what is this government's economic story? It does not have one. It does not have one because it simply has not focused. It has focused on the politics of issues and not actually growing the economy. If you look at this budget there is no job story to it. There is no job story to this budget. What in this budget was going to suddenly turn around South Australia's terrible

unemployment rate and create employment in the northern and southern suburbs—long-term, sustainable employment? There really is nothing in this budget that addresses the key fundamental issues that South Australia faces long term about growing its economy.

South Australia is going to face some very difficult challenges in the next 10 to 20 years, not the least being that governments of all colours from other states attacking the way that the federal government funds states. It will not be just Liberal government interstate doing this, this will be Labor governments as well. This is the position that this government has now put South Australia in and we are politically vulnerable long term thanks to the mismanagement and arrogance of this government. It is placing South Australia at risk long-term.

What we face is this: South Australia currently gets about a billion dollars a year subsidy from other states through the horizontal fiscal equalisation process which is, I know, a favourite of all of us. We are getting a billion dollars a year extra thanks to the generosity of the system. We are essentially being subsidised by the other states. At the same time as getting the billion dollars subsidy, the Premier goes out and says on a regular basis that South Australia is employing more teachers, more doctors and more nurses than any other state. At the same time, we are running deficits of over a billion dollars a year.

We are getting a billion dollar subsidy from other states, we are employing more teachers doctors and nurses than other states, and we still cannot balance our budget—we are still running a billion dollar deficit. It does not take long for other premiers, who are under financial pressure themselves, to say, 'This is really interesting. Why is it that we are subsidising South Australia to employ more teachers, more nurses and more doctors than us? Why isn't New South Wales or Queensland or Western Australia employing doctors, nurses and teachers to the same level per capita as South Australia?' It all comes down to financial discipline.

What is going to happen to South Australia is that political parties, of both colours, I think will start to more closely observe how South Australia is spending its subsidy. I think there will be pressure brought to bear on the system over the next 10 to 20 years to bring South Australia and Tasmania to a position of making some more difficult financial decisions about the way they run their governments and the way they run their cabinets.

If you were a premier in another state you would have to be scratching your head and asking, 'Why are we subsidising this state that refuses to have any financial discipline at all; that is running world record deficits'—or certainly state record deficits—'and they are running the highest debt in the state's history?' Let's not forget that we have the highest debt and the highest deficit in the state's history, and let's not forget that we have the highest taxes in Australia. So, they are already taxing the business community and the families of South Australia at the highest level of any state in Australia. We are already doing that, so putting up revenue becomes difficult.

We are already charging the highest WorkCover rate in Australia, and we are already running the highest debt in the state's history. In fact, it was the fastest growing debt and the highest interest rate according to the Queensland audit commission when they did a flick around all the states: we were the fastest growing debt and paying the highest interest on our debt, so borrowing more money is not necessarily the answer.

South Australia has got itself into a very difficult financial position due to the economic incompetence of the government. The real trigger for the downhill slide was when the government announced that it was going to get rid of the AAA credit rating. It said, 'We are going to make deliberate decisions to lose the AAA credit rating,' and at that point the markets priced our borrowings at a lot higher rate, costing us a lot more interest, but, more importantly, it was a signal to the cabinet and it was a signal to the Public Service that it did not matter, that financial discipline no longer mattered, 'Just keep on spending.'

The reality is that it is not about how much you spend on a particular program, it is about the outputs of a particular program that count, and the government after 12 years still has not learned that lesson. There are still lots of inefficiencies in government, but I guess, 'If it serves a political purpose, then what does it matter?' would be the government's response. An example of that would be the public sector commissioner: a new one has taken over and she is on a salary of about

\$360,000 and they have employed the old one as an internal consultant for six or seven months on \$360,000. This is a small example, but there are many of them throughout the Public Service.

Of course South Australia wants, expects and deserves good quality services from the government or from those providing the services. The reality is that the state has to ask itself: how much longer are they going to ask the business community and families to pay the highest taxes in Australia? How much longer is the state going to put up with the high unemployment we have as a result of mismanagement?

If you think about the long-term future of South Australia, the real answer to the long-term future of South Australia economically is to grow the small business sector, to get more of them exporting, to get more of them employing and to get more entrepreneurs starting their first business or indeed their second business and expanding. While you have the highest taxes in Australia, while you have a government that is totally disinterested in the sector, has little interest in the sector, while you have complicated laws like the occupational health and safety laws creating uncertainty, then a lot of the small business community are quite comfortable thank you. They will sit there and keep trading at the current rate because they have established themselves, they do not need to expand, and they are quite comfortable thank you—and that is not good for the state.

We actually need to give the small business community more confidence, and the only way you are going to do that is to lighten their load on both the tax and regulatory burden, and you lighten their load so that you give them some incentive to employ. The government has had 12 or 13 years to try to do that, but the reality is, I think, that they are simply not interested in it. The reason they are not interested in it is quite simple: small businesses are by definition not unionised, big businesses are unionised.

The government spends lots of time talking to big business because it assists their union affiliations. The small business community, which by definition is not unionised, gets scant regard from the government. I think the government is making a huge mistake, and I think that is a problem for the state long term because the only way South Australia is going to work its way out of its current budget position is to grow the small business sector so that we can grow employment.

Debate adjourned on motion of Mr Gardner.

Parliamentary Procedure

SITTINGS AND BUSINESS

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety) (12:57): 1 move:

That standing orders be so far suspended as to enable me to move a motion without notice forthwith.

Ms BEDFORD: Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to the state of the house.

A quorum having been formed:

The Hon. A. PICCOLO: I move:

That standing orders and sessional orders be so far suspended as to enable the time for consideration of the routine business of the house to commence at 2.15pm today.

Motion carried.

Sitting suspended from 12:58 to 14:15.

Bills

SUPPLY BILL 2014

Assent

His Excellency the Administrator assented to the bill.

CRIMINAL LAW (SENTENCING) (CHARACTER EVIDENCE) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

His Excellency the Administrator assented to the bill.

CHILD SEX OFFENDERS REGISTRATION (CONTROL ORDERS AND OTHER MEASURES) AMENDMENT BILL

Assent

His Excellency the Administrator assented to the bill.

Mr WILLIAMS: Mr Speaker, some of my colleagues and I are somewhat confused-

The Hon. P. Caica: It's not the first time, Mitch.

Mr WILLIAMS: At least I'm man enough to admit it. I am somewhat confused as to what might have happened to our Governor and somewhat confused that the state seems to have gone into administration—not surprised, sir, but confused.

The SPEAKER: In the way of the Donetsk People's Republic, the situation is that our Governor is very much in place but he is acting as the Governor-General. Therefore, the Lieutenant Governor becomes the Administrator, so the message was from the person otherwise known as the Lieutenant Governor. It is not from, I think, the Chief Justice, who sometimes acts as the administrator. Does that clear it up?

Mr WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir. We thought we were one step away from receivership.

The SPEAKER: For a lack of wit, I call the member for MacKillop to order.

Parliamentary Procedure

ANSWERS TABLED

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

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table:

By the Premier (Hon. J.W. Weatherill)-

Remuneration Tribunal—Determination No. 5 of 2014—Travelling and Accommodation Allowances—Judicial Officers, Court Officers and Statutory Officers Report 2014

By the Attorney-General (Hon. J.R. Rau)-

Regulations made under the following Act— Evidence—Identity Parades

By the Minister for Planning (Hon. J.R. Rau)-

Regulations made under the following Act— Development—Public Notice Categories

By the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse (Hon. J.J. Snelling)—

Regulations made under the following Act— Tobacco Products Regulation—Smoking Ban—Royal Adelaide Show

By the Minister for Education and Child Development (Hon. J.M. Rankine)—

Education and Child Development, Department for—Annual Report 2013

By the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy (Hon. A. Koutsantonis)-

Deed between the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy and BHP Billiton Olympic Dam Corporation Pty Ltd for the Variation of the Olympic Dam and Stuart Shelf Indenture Stony Point Environmental Consultative Group—Annual Report 2012-13 Regulations made under the following Act— Petroleum and Geothermal Energy—Variation of Schedule 1—Fees

By the Minister for Disabilities (Hon. A. Piccolo)-

Regulations made under the following Act— Prices—Prohibitions—Unsold Bread

By the Minister for Tourism (Hon. L.W.K. Bignell)—

Adelaide Entertainments Corporation Performance Statement 2013-14

By the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation (Hon. S.E. Close)-

South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Board—Annual Report 2012-13 Regulations made under the following Act— Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights— Revocation of Regulations Variation of Regulation 4—By-laws

Ministerial Statement

CHILD PROTECTION

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:19): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: If the allegations at the heart of the matter detailed by police on Tuesday are proven true, then an evil shadow has descended on our state. The entire community shares a sense of disbelief, anger and hurt that such little children could be subjected to such acts of depravity. For the government's part, we are resolved to support and care for the children and their families and to ensure justice is done.

Immediate steps to review every element of the way in which we look after our most vulnerable are now being taken. In all of this, it is important that we continue to recognise that the majority of those who work in our child protection systems are decent, honourable people who open their hearts to care for our children. The police have an important and continuing function to investigate these matters and the possibility of any further victims. I have offered them every resource to help them with this most horrific task.

At a proper time, it will be necessary for a full and independent judicial inquiry. In my view, this should take the form of a royal commission. We are presently giving thought to the terms of reference and we will consult with the opposition for their views on this. It may be necessary to construct the inquiry in parts to ensure that police and prosecution who are actively engaged in this matter are not distracted from their important work.

I have already had the opportunity of having some brief remarks with the Leader of the Opposition about these matters, and I wish to thank him for his support in our response to these matters and, in particular, his kindness to staff who are dealing with these distressing matters.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE (Wright—Minister for Education and Child Development) (14:23): I seek leave to make a ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

The Hon. J.M. RANKINE: In relation to the heart-wrenching situation we are now facing, I want to update the house on action we have taken to date and what we will be doing in the coming days. A task force comprised of senior representatives from my department, Health and South Australia Police is meeting every morning to ensure a coordinated response and increased random checks of residential care units are being implemented.

As soon as we were cleared by SAPOL, we began the process of notifying parents and carers of this terrible news. These visits have taken place with police, health professionals and victim support officers. As I am sure members appreciate, this has been a harrowing process for all involved, but most particularly the victims and their families. I have now instructed the task force overseeing this matter to establish individual support plans for each identified family. This plan is to ensure that each family has the therapeutic, emotional and victim supports they need at this awful time.

A principal social worker and two principal psychologists have been appointed to work alongside colleagues from Child Protection Services and South Australia Police. This team will principally be responsible for coordinating the response strategy for the seven children, their carers and families. At the same time my department has notified parents at one Adelaide metropolitan school where the accused was a vacation and out-of-school-hours carer. However, it is important to reiterate that the police have advised that at this stage no victims from that school community have been identified.

In terms of support we have arranged social work and counselling officers onsite and available at the school for children, parents and staff. We have also established a hotline for any concerned members of the community to contact and seek information or support.

I have instructed my agency to engage an independent firm of psychologists to undertake the audits of employment records of Families SA residential care workers. I have also asked them to expedite the employment of an additional 180 workers for our residential care facilities with a focus on the employment of qualified early childhood workers.

In saying that, can I acknowledge the distress and disgust of the hundreds of wonderful staff who every day make every effort to keep children safe in South Australia, and I would like to place on record my great appreciation of the efforts of our South Australia Police. Sir, there is obviously more work that needs to be done, and I will continue to provide the opposition and this house with ongoing updates.

Question Time

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:27): My question is to the Premier: how soon will the government move to establish the royal commission referenced in his statement today?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:27): Thank you sir, and I thank the honourable member for his question. It is probably worth reflecting on the stage at which the particular matter that is before the courts is at in constructing the answer. While there have been charges, the police are continuing their investigations, so during this phase of the police continuing their investigations—and obviously that involves matters that are intimately associated with the matters into which we would seek to inquire—we would not want to disturb their work, to jeopardise the successful or proper prosecution into the matter. Nor would we wish to distract them in any way from their important work.

What we are giving thought to at the moment is the notion that at some point it may well be possible to begin an inquiry which looked at matters which were separate from the particular matters at stake. Such an inquiry could commence and begin its work and then at an appropriate time the particular matter in question might then become the subject of that inquiry. They are the matters we are giving thought to at the moment. We are also giving thought to the possible identity of a person who would be the proper person to carry out such an inquiry. I have said before that I thought that this needed an inquiry at the highest level—something in the nature of a judicial inquiry that would most likely take the form of a royal commission—so that people could be satisfied that what was arrived at was arrived at through the highest process of inquiry that was able to draw on all of the information with all of the coercive powers that correspond to a royal commission. The short answer is we haven't reached a concluded view about when, but we will consult with the Leader of the Opposition and his team about how we construct an inquiry that the whole community can have confidence in.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:30): A supplementary: has the government inquired as to whether Mr Debelle is available to undertake the royal commission?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:30): Not yet, but Mr Debelle or others of his eminence would, of course, be outstanding candidates for the role. We need to consider a range of matters, including expertise which may be capable of being brought into the inquiry. They are all matters that are exercising our judgement at the moment. As I say, I have already had some initial discussions with the Leader of the Opposition about the possible identity of somebody who might fulfil this function.

I think it is also probably worth mentioning at this juncture that there is an existing royal commission into child sexual abuse which is currently on foot at the federal level. It is more likely than not that this matter could be the subject of interest by that royal commission, but it may well also be the case that there would be a separate need for South Australia to have its own inquiry, having regard to the needs of its own system.

It is probably also, I think, worth pointing out that, while the royal commission is a crucially important part, in my view, of the way in which we should proceed, it shouldn't preclude the work that will happen immediately, at the level of the department, to take steps now. There are obviously urgent steps and, to the extent that they learn or discover things, or propose solutions for the future, they could potentially be inputs into a later inquiry.

TORRENS UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

Mrs VLAHOS (Taylor) (14:32): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house about the opening of Torrens University in Adelaide and the benefit it provides to our state?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:32): It was my great pleasure to just return from a function where the special guest was the former president of the United States—the 42nd president of the United States—Bill Clinton. I attended there with a number of members opposite, including the Leader of the Opposition.

President Clinton is obviously in Adelaide today to launch the Torrens University Australia as South Australia's newest international university. We have just witnessed an extraordinary oration by President Clinton. He is, as we speak, answering questions in a question and answer session of the audience there, which is possibly slightly more interesting than the proceedings that exist here; nevertheless, we had to drag ourselves away.

He, of course, is honorary chancellor of Laureate International Universities, of which Torrens University Australia is a member. While President Clinton did commit to me to stand with me to announce the setting up of this new university, I did think that might have been just one of those things that was said in a very kind way, but perhaps wasn't delivered on. So, it is a great thrill that he is here and that he is actually being able to celebrate this fantastic opening.

Torrens University Australia is, of course, situated in the Torrens Building on Victoria Square, where thousands of students across 30 countries will undertake undergraduate and graduate degree programs. The new university will not only further strengthen South Australia's reputation as a worldclass destination for students, it will also bring its own economic benefits for South Australia. Both domestic and international students will have the opportunity to collaborate with industry experts from across the global laureate network.

Of course, this university bolsters our reputation as a great university city, but it also adds to the network of opportunities that exist to extend our influence to bring people here, to bring ideas here, to have people from South Australia better networked into the world. This was the burden of President Clinton's speech. He spoke of the great challenges of the next 50 years being essentially how we harness the interdependence of our global community for good rather than for some of the evil things that are going on around the world.

These networks are an opportunity for us to reach out to the world. It's no longer an option to be an insular small state in an island in an international community. We need to embrace the opportunities that exist and the diversity that is such a rich part of our South Australian culture. We pioneered some important elements of this. Multiculturalism—we can lay claim to that being an incredibly powerful part of our history and our heritage, and our respect for the role of women in our community and in leadership positions.

Diversity is in the heart of the South Australian story. Interdependence is the modern condition, and Laureate Universities connect us into the world in a way that will allow us to realise some of the wonderful opportunities for the future. It was a great event. We are privileged to have a past president of the United States here celebrating with us. This is, I think, a wonderful launching pad for our reputation as a university city.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Parliamentary Procedure

VISITORS

The SPEAKER: Before I call the leader, the Morphett Vale RSL Ladies Auxiliary are at parliament today as guests of the member for Reynell.

Question Time

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): My question is to the Premier. Has the government applied to have the suppression order lifted in relation to the Families SA employee alleged to have sexually abused children in his care?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:36): No.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:36): Supplementary: has the government given any consideration to having the suppression order lifted?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:36): First of all, we don't lift orders: courts do and, secondly, no.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. J.R. RAU: No. I mentioned this this morning on the radio. The point is basically this: at this point in the investigation we would obviously as a government be very mindful of any request or advice that we receive from SAPOL. So, for example, if SAPOL were to come to the government and say, 'Look, we think it would be in the public interest for some information to be made available and we think that would assist in the investigations', or something of that nature, then quite possibly an application might be considered, but that has not happened.

I am also mindful of the fact that the main reason that these laws are there is to ensure that neither direct nor indirect suffering is caused to victims or their families by the publication of details. At this point in time, the important thing is that the police are able to get on with their job and collect the evidence, speak to whatever witnesses they need to speak to, and prepare their case to be presented to the court in respect of the person who presently is just an accused person.

If the media or anybody else wishes to disturb that state of affairs, as a result of amendments made to the Evidence Act a year or so ago, they are entitled, like anyone else, to go down to the

courts and ask for variations or amendments to the suppression orders. I think at this point in time all of us should be thinking, most importantly, about what is in the public interest, what is going to enable our police to be doing the best possible job they can do to collect all of the evidence and prepare an appropriate brief to be handed to the Director of Public Prosecutions to ensure this matter is properly dealt with in a fair and reasonable way in the courts. That is our priority at the present time.

As others have said to me on several occasions, things that are in the public interest and things that are of interest to the public are not always the same. At the moment, our priority needs to be fixed very, very firmly on the public interest, which is the appropriate and absolutely scrupulously fair preparation of evidence for the proper conduct of this matter. Nothing would be more horrific than if it were to transpire that, because of some information being made available contrary to the wishes of the police, either evidence disappeared, witnesses disappeared or, even worse, there was some suggestion that a fair trial (in the event of that ultimately being required) could not be had.

The SPEAKER: Supplementary, the leader.

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:40): Has the government received any advice from SAPOL against making an application to lifting suppression orders?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:40): So far as I am aware, SAPOL does not make it a habit of advising us, in the context of them knowing the default position is a certain way, about the default position if they are happy with it. I am not aware of SAPOL having asked to have the default position changed—the default position being a suppression order for the time being—and I am confident that, if SAPOL considered it to be in the public interest that that default position were to be departed from, they would approach government, presumably either directly to me in my office or through my ministerial colleague, minister Piccolo.

The SPEAKER: A further supplementary?

CHILD PROTECTION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:41): Yes, sir. Will the government now reconsider the recommendation of former chief justice Brian Martin regarding the removal of automatic suppression orders for sexual offences?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:41): This is a matter which we debated in this house 18 months or two years ago; it was a matter of some considerable discussion there. What was arrived at was an amendment to the then existing section 71A of the Evidence Act. The previous position, Mr Speaker, as you would be able to recall, was that those orders were mandatory and could not be changed. The parliament said, 'Look, we accept that there may be circumstances, in the public interest, when that mandatory maintenance of a suppression order is not in the public interest and should be varied, and a judge should be able to make that variation.' We amended the law to enable that to happen, and that is where it should be.

NITSCHKE, DR PHILIP

The Hon. T.R. KENYON (Newland) (14:42): My question is to the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse. What is the South Australian government's response to last night's decision by the Australian Medical Board to suspend Philip Nitschke from medical practice?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:43): I thank the member for Newland for the question. Last night the Australian Medical Board suspended Philip Nitschke from practising medicine in Australia, stating that 'he presents a serious risk to public health and safety'. This follows from his conduct in providing advice to Perth man Nigel Brayley, who then took his life.

Euthanasia, voluntary euthanasia and assisted suicide are illegal in South Australia and, while they have been debated in previous parliaments in this place, as far as I am aware, Philip Nitschke's resolve to provide support to a healthy man with no terminal illness in ending his life goes beyond the scope of any piece of legislation that any house in any parliament in Australia has ever considered. Let me make it clear to the house that any medical practitioner who feels that suicide is an option for depressed and mentally ill people is not fit to practise medicine in South Australia.

I understand that Philip Nitschke has made remarks this morning suggesting that he and Mr Brayley did not have a doctor-patient relationship. This completely misses the point. His inaction in not referring Mr Brayley to a psychologist or psychiatrist for counselling around his wishes to end his life is deplorable. As Jeff Kennett, Chairman of beyondblue, described it, it is 'offensive to all standards of common decency'. AMA President, Brian Owler, has said of Philip Nitschke's negligence, and I quote again:

To suggest a patient with suicidal ideation has a rational or cogent reason for their wish to suicide and that means there is no obligation to help them is completely false and it is immoral.

In South Australia the government is investing in suicide prevention and I know we have bipartisan support on this issue. What has happened in this instance goes against everything we stand for in urging people to seek help when experiencing depression or mental illness. Philip Nitschke operates a voluntary euthanasia advice clinic in South Australia. I understand that to date this clinic has operated within the law but I will be seeking advice from SA Health and South Australia Police on how his suspension may affect the services provided at this clinic.

I am also aware that his organisation has a website which actively promotes end-of-life options and that this website was accessed by a 25-year-old Victorian man who then used the information to commit suicide. We will looking closely at the Australian Medical Board findings with the aim to find ways that tighten laws around access to websites such as these in Australia to prevent the senseless death that Philip Nitschke has been suspended for advocating.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:45): My question is to the Premier. On 23 June did the Premier's office discuss with the CEO of his department the need to convene a meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee which was then held on 25 June?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:46): I do not recall whether a conversation of that sort occurred. What I do know is that there is statutory body which has been convened in relation to the Clovelly Park matter, not in its emergency capacity but rather just to bring the particular officers together to discuss the future progress of the matter, and that is a matter that I understand was dealt with by the chief executive of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The SPEAKER: Supplementary, leader.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:46): Are you suggesting that it was the CEO of your department who convened the meeting?

The SPEAKER: So 'is the Premier suggesting'?

Mr MARSHALL: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:47): I am not entirely sure who convened the meeting. What I do know is the chief executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet participated in that meeting.

Mr MARSHALL: Supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: Further supplementary.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:47): To the Premier: was the Emergency Management Committee meeting called to resolve the conflict between the Minister for Health and the Minister for the Environment as to who was to take the lead on this contamination issue?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (14:47): There was no conflict about the way in which this matter was to be dealt with. Remember, at this point in the process what we were dealing with were the number of potential phases. The first phase was to be dealt with by the Minister for Environment. That was a settled matter at that time. At some future point, a point we have not yet arrived at, it is likely that there will need to be a further phase, because it was contemplated that there may well be effects that essentially go beyond the remit of the Minister for Environment.

Out of an abundance of preparation for that matter, there have been discussions about who should be the lead minister after the initial phase, which is not even yet complete, where the Minister for Environment was handling this matter. So there is no conflict, there is just the orderly discussion about what the government's arrangements would be for a matter of this sort, which obviously traverses a range of portfolio areas, including environment, health, and potentially into other areas that involve land use, not necessarily government land, but obviously Minister for Social Housing and potentially private sector land use. All of those particular portfolios were involved and so a discussion about what should happen beyond that point was had.

SOUTH ROAD UPGRADES

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (14:49): My question is directed to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, and I think it might be a question, Mr Speaker, that you would be interested in as well.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. S.W. KEY: No, not Barton Terrace! Can the minister update the house about the latest development of the Torrens to Torrens upgrade project?

Mr Pederick interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Did the member for Hammond say that Torrens to Torrens was a freeway to the Krispy Kreme outlet?

Mr PEDERICK: What I did say, Mr Speaker, is that I thought the transport minister might be building a freeway to the Krispy Kreme outlet in your electorate.

The SPEAKER: Well, it could be a case for widening Port Road, given the patronage of that establishment at West Croydon. I hope the widening does not take my office. The minister for transport.

The Hon. S.C. MULLIGHAN (Lee—Member of the Executive Council, Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, Minister Assisting the Minister for Planning, Minister Assisting the Minister for Housing and Urban Development) (14:50): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am not quite sure what answer I can provide that will satisfy the conflicting interests in the house. I thank the member for Ashford for her interest in this topic. Today, in conjunction with the commonwealth assistant minister for infrastructure, the Hon. Jamie Briggs MP, I announced the awarding of a \$6.8 million contract for the important early works as part of the north-south corridor Torrens to Torrens project. These early works are the first of road upgrade works on the Torrens to Torrens project and, commencing in August, will upgrade the existing South Road/Ashwin Parade intersection at the southernmost extent of the project.

These works will improve the safety and efficiency of this intersection. It will also enable this intersection to cope with increased traffic movements anticipated as a result of the Torrens to Torrens project and reduce delays. Specifically, it will include the widening of South Road at the intersection of Ashwin Parade and West Thebarton Road, and provide additional through and turning lanes on South Road and Ashwin Parade.

It should also be pointed out to the house that these construction works will also incorporate the construction of a roundabout further west along Ashwin Parade at the entrance to the new Woolworths development at the Brickworks. Woolworths is quite rightly contributing \$2.6 million to the total project costs in recognition of the improvements to entry and exit points motorists will experience in entering their premises.

It is expected that in total these road upgrade works will support 39 jobs, supporting local employment in the state. These are just a few of the 480 jobs that will be supported by the Torrens to Torrens project in total, and the 850 jobs supported in the \$1.5 billion committed by both commonwealth and state governments in the Darlington and Torrens to Torrens combined works.

This government takes the role of local industry and employment participation very seriously in these infrastructure projects. South Australia's Industry Participation Advocate, Mr Ian Nightingale, will be working with local companies looking to tender on the north-south corridor projects to promote local industry participation and boost employment opportunities for locals.

As part of this investment in the north-south corridor, one of the largest road infrastructure projects undertaken in South Australia, the government will set a target of 20 per cent of labour hours for apprentices, trainees, Aboriginal people, local people with barriers to employment, and displaced automotive employees.

Both of the upgrades on our north-south corridor are expected to provide a significant longterm economic boost for the state. The Torrens to Torrens project alone has a benefit-cost ratio of 2.4:1, indicating substantial returns to the economy from the project.

At a more local level I can advise nearby residents as well as commuters affected by the Ashwin Parade project works that, while some works during the day will be required, I am advised that the majority of work will occur at night in an effort to minimise disruption to the local community and to minimise traffic delays. It is expected that these works will be completed by April 2015, weather permitting. I look forward to continuing to update the house on both the Torrens to Torrens and Darlington projects as they develop.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Opposition) (14:53): My question is to the minister for health. Considering the URS report was received on 16 May, why was the decision as to whether SA Health or the EPA was the lead agency still unresolved on 25 June, when the State Emergency Management Committee determined the issue?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Member of the Executive Council, Premier) (14:53): Can I say that that is an inaccurate summary of the position. The position as at that date is that the environment minister through the environment portfolio, the EPA, was the lead for the first phase of this particular matter. What we have not reached yet is the further phase, which was the topic of internal discussions within agencies. These were always going to be matters that would have an initial phase, that initially that EPA was to supervise, and then it may have progressed to other agencies as other considerations then took over.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:54): My question is for the Minister for Health. Has the Chief Public Health Officer, or any other Public Health officer, advised the minister that the Clovelly Park TCE contamination is not a public health issue?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:55): I haven't received any form of briefings from Health on this matter. Health's relationship, or Public Health's relationship is directly with the EPA and they provide technical advice to the EPA as and when required and, presumably, the EPA then brief the relevant minister, who is minister Hunter.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:55): This is to the Minister for Health. Given that there is no information—

The SPEAKER: Is it a supplementary?

Mr MARSHALL: No, sir; you just called me so I am diligently obeying your request to ask a question of the government. My question is to the Minister for Health. Given that there is no information on the Clovelly Park contamination on the SA Health website, does the minister consider that putting health information on an EPA website, under the 'site contamination' section, represents accessible health information?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:55): Well, there is no doubt people who have an interest in this area are going to go to the EPA website for relevant information. They are not going to go to the SA Health website. The EPA is the lead agency for controlling this matter and any relevant information is going to be on the EPA website, not the Health website.

ILLEGAL FIREARMS

Mr ODENWALDER (Little Para) (14:56): My question is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney inform the house about a recent announcement regarding new laws to target people selling illegal firearms?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations) (14:56): I thank the honourable member for his question. Last Thursday, I made a commitment on behalf of the state government to introduce legislation to target people selling illegal firearms in South Australia. The need for reform in this area was highlighted by two tragic incidents, being the murder of Lewis McPherson on New Year's Eve 2012 and the murder of Graham Mieglich. The state government recently introduced new laws to ensure those who use firearms to commit crime face serious gaol time, and this proposed legislation builds on that.

This legislation will classify the selling of a firearm where one of the parties does not hold a licence as a serious firearms offence. This then triggers a series of things, including a presumption against a suspended sentence as well as a presumption against bail being granted to those charged with a serious firearms offence. Under the proposed new legislation, those who sell guns to those without a licence should expect to go straight to gaol and stay there. These tragic circumstances show there had previously been a loophole in law where traffickers in firearms had not been treated as severely as those who actually commit crimes using firearms. These laws close that circle and make the people who sell the firearms equally culpable as those people who use them to commit criminal offences.

I have spoken to Mr Mark McPherson, Lewis's father, on a number of occasions about this reform. Mr McPherson has been a strong advocate for this change. He has been a tireless campaigner for reform in this area and I applaud his integrity and courage to work with the government after suffering such a traumatic loss. The government wants to send a message to those people out in the community who might be thinking it is okay to go around selling firearms to people who don't have a legal entitlement to use firearms or have a firearm: they had better think again.

The introduction of these new laws will mean South Australia has some of the toughest firearms laws in the country. This proposed new law will send a very strong and, I hope, clear message: we do not and will not tolerate illegal guns in our community.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:58): My question is to the Minister for Health. Given that the Premier has committed to providing free health checks for people affected by contamination at Clovelly Park and Mitchell Park, have residents been notified of these health checks and what do these health checks entail?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:59): I think the Premier made very clear publicly that any resident in the affected areas would be able to access whatever health advice or health checks that they needed. Whether any direct communication has
been made to the people affected in those areas with regard to those matters would be handled by the EPA. I can get a report back for the house and let the honourable member know.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (14:59): Supplementary, sir. What advice is the minister providing to the residents of Clovelly Park and Mitchell Park regarding access to these free medical checks?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (14:59): Anyone in the affected areas who wants a medical check, or any medical advice whatsoever, need only contact the Department for Health and I will ensure that those medical checks happen.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:00): Further supplementary. Can the minister advise the house what these free medical checks will entail? What testing will be done, in what time frame, and what cost will it be to the people of South Australia?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:00): It will be whatever is medically appropriate. I am not a doctor. I am certainly not going to tell doctors who work in my department how to do their job. The doctors in the department will determine what is medically appropriate for the particular individuals involved. We will do everything we possibly can to ensure that any concerns of any resident in any of these affected areas are properly addressed.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:00): Supplementary, sir. Has the minister sought any advice from his department as to what are the appropriate health checks for people living in Mitchell Park and Clovelly Park who are concerned about the adverse health effects of possible exposure to TCE?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:00): Any communication I have had with my department has been along the lines of ensuring that the medically appropriate checks—

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING: I'm not a doctor. It is whatever those doctors determine. I do not tell doctors in my department how to do their job, and the simple answer to the question is: whatever is medically appropriate. That is the simple answer to the question. I do not determine what is medically appropriate. The doctors who are on the ground, who are the experts in the area, make decisions about what is medically appropriate and they will provide that appropriate level of service.

Mr MARSHALL: Supplementary, sir.

The SPEAKER: No, we can't have four supplementaries.

Mr MARSHALL: I think it is only 3¹/₂, sir.

The SPEAKER: The member for Florey.

MATTHEW FLINDERS STATUE

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:01): My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier inform the house about South Australia's involvement at the Matthew Flinders statue unveiling in London last week and what opportunities this provided for the promotion of South Australia and might provide other figures of significance to this state who have achieved notable feats?

The SPEAKER: I think that is very close to being ruled out on the ground that it suggests its own answer, but I will call the Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (15:02): What a surprise, and that is a question without notice, I can tell you. I thank the honourable member for her question. She is an entirely appropriate person to ask a question about South Australia's historical figures because we know of her magnificent advocacy on behalf of Muriel Matters, making sure that that woman takes her place in South Australian and, indeed, international history as an important proponent of female suffrage.

On Friday 18 July, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge unveiled the memorial statue of explorer Matthew Flinders in London at a reception at Australia House. This reception event was led by South Australia's Agent-General Bill Muirhead and attended by 300 guests, including business leaders and senior academics. The Duke of Cambridge's attendance ensured that there was significant media coverage.

His Royal Highness's speech before the unveiling of the statue, with the 'Open the door' to South Australia (our brand) on display, received widespread media attention across Australia and the United Kingdom. The statue pays tribute to Captain Matthew Flinders and the important role he played in the history of our state and, indeed, the nation. Captain Flinders was the first cartographer to circumnavigate Australia and identify it as a continent, and is particularly important to South Australia where we have the Flinders Ranges, of course, Flinders Chase National Park, Flinders Street and, of course, the Flinders University.

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon: Operation Flinders.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: Operation Flinders.

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon: The medical centre.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: The medical centre, yes, you could go on and on, as you are. The two-year project to have the explorer immortalised was led by the Office of the Agent-General, and I think it demonstrates what a fantastic Agent-General we do have in London. The Matthew Flinders Memorial Statue Steering Committee largely comprised of volunteers, with Chairman John Allen, Deputy Chairman Matt Johnson, Pauline Lyle-Smith, Barry Kitchener (of Network Rail), Peter Ashley (a retired Royal Navy lieutenant commander), John Flinders (a distant relative to Captain Flinders) and Dr Gillian Dooley (a librarian at Flinders University). Credit must also be given to these people who committed their time to this significant project which led to its success.

The statue itself has the 'Open the door' to South Australia branding on the base of it, as well as a 'QR code', which takes interested onlookers to the Flinders Memorial website which provides valuable information about the life and work of Captain Flinders as well as information about his namesake, Flinders University. After the unveiling on Friday, the statue was permanently installed on the main concourse at Euston station.

In excess of 60 million people pass through Euston station every year, meaning the statue could well become one of the most viewed in the United Kingdom, and there is our brand firmly in front of people. A permanent fixture displaying the state's branding provides a significant and fantastic promotional opportunity for us in a global setting. It is another example of the way in which we are trying to take South Australia to the world and also of the wonderful work that we are doing out of the Agent-General's office.

SITE CONTAMINATION, CLOVELLY PARK AND MITCHELL PARK

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Health. Now the government has had six days to get an answer, can the minister advise whether SA Health is doing any follow-up or monitoring of the health of people who, in 2009, were relocated from the Unity Housing site in Clovelly Park?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:05): I did get some advice. I just do not have it to hand, but I am happy to get a report back to the house.

Mr MARSHALL: Sorry?

The SPEAKER: He will report back to the house. The member for Giles.

DIESEL STORAGE FACILITY

Mr HUGHES (Giles) (15:05): My question is to the Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy. Can the minister inform the house about diesel storage developments in South Australia?

Mr Pengilly: It was in the paper about a week ago, Ed.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS (West Torrens—Treasurer, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, Minister for Small Business) (15:06): I'm glad you can read. We're all amazed.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The Treasurer will immediately withdraw and apologise for that remark.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I withdraw and apologise, if I offended the member.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Could the minister just withdraw and apologise unreservedly, and not make it conditional on the member being offended.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: I unconditionally and unreservedly apologise to the member for suggesting anything about him, sir.

The SPEAKER: The minister.

The Hon. A. KOUTSANTONIS: Thank you. While we see global commodity prices and a constrained capital market affecting resource investment, underlying strength is strong. Domestic demand for South Australian resources remains high, and minerals and petroleum production continue to grow, achieving a combined \$6.2 billion in 2012-13. More recently, record production of \$7 billion was achieved in 2013 with minerals and petroleum sectors reporting production values of \$5.4 billion and \$1.6 billion respectively.

Continued growth in production of South Australia's mineral commodities and petroleum is a result of ongoing steady production at the state's major mines, significant increases in the state's production of iron ore and growth in oil and gas production from the Cooper Basin. To sustain the growth in mineral and petroleum resource production over the longer term, South Australia maintains more than 900 exploration licences and 30 developing projects in various stages of exploration, resource definition and feasibility or assessment.

The strength and breadth of our world-class minerals and energy projects continue to provide myriad opportunities for all South Australians from the Far North to Eyre Peninsula to right here in Adelaide. These opportunities are many and they are diverse.

Earlier, the government was pleased to welcome the announcement by Tokyo-based Mitsubishi Corporation to establish a diesel import terminal at Port Bonython. This \$110 million investment in South Australia will be the corporation's first entry into the Australian fuels market and is a vote of confidence in South Australia and a vote of confidence in the state's diesel-consuming sectors.

Diesel is one of the building blocks of our economy. As our industrial capability grows, so too will our demand for diesel. I congratulate Mitsubishi for having the foresight and desire to capitalise on the continued growth in our diesel-intensive industry. We are seeing record export levels in South Australia, and anticipated growth in our mineral resources and energy, transport and agriculture sectors will mean additional demands for fuel.

This facility, which is expected to be operational by mid-2016, will boost fuel security in South Australia, providing a competitive and reliable supply and helping to underpin future economic growth. A secure diesel supply is vital, and this facility will be part of our arsenal to help grow the state's economy. The new terminal will be an integral piece of infrastructure to both enhance fuel security for the state and launch Mitsubishi's diesel supply, sales and distribution business.

The establishment of this facility will mean the creation of up to 150 local jobs through construction, and 10 ongoing jobs in operations. The project will use the existing deep-water jetty

near Whyalla in the Upper Spencer Gulf. Rumours of Whyalla's demise have been exaggerated. Construction of the diesel importation, storage and distribution operation will significantly increase the diesel storage capacity within South Australia and the availability of diesel in the northern regions of the state supporting the local mining and resources industries.

As part of the previously approved development application in the hydrocarbon precinct, a detailed assessment was undertaken ensuring the project is environmentally sound and adheres to strict guidelines. Final designs of the facility will be approved by the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, and I congratulate the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure on his collaborative role.

The SPEAKER: Time has expired. The leader.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:11): My question is to the Premier. Was the former EPA chief Campbell Gemmell correct when he said on 8 July, and I quote:

The task of fixing South Australia's industrial contamination was made more difficult by cultural problems including a lack of funds and political support.

The SPEAKER: Premier.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (15:11): I am not sure what the former head of the EPA was talking about, although I do recall, because I was treasurer at the time, a failed budget bid in relation to cleaning up certain contaminated sites—not relevant necessarily to the industrial contamination we are talking about here, but certainly a proposition that was about readying sites for essentially development. It is a worthy idea but it was not relevant in a health and welfare sense to the broader community. It was really about accelerating the process of urban development or, indeed, development around the city as the principal sources of the 'blighted sites' I think was the nature of the thing.

So, if it is the case that Mr Gemmell's remarks are directed to his disappointment that sufficient resources were not made available in the context of a difficult budget to actually set aside some money to clean up somebody else's contamination of a site that would allow us to then accelerate some urban development in and around inner urban areas, then perhaps that is what his remarks are directed at. In all other respects, the South Australian government has taken our obligations incredibly seriously in relation to the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

At all times I have ensured, and I know my ministers have ensured, that relevant information and relevant steps are taken to ensure that our community is kept safe. Of course, there have been some unfortunate steps taken in relation to this matter. I think it is true, with the benefit of hindsight, that instead of trying to be in possession of as much information as we can to answer as many questions as we can before going out to talk to people, we have to have a much stronger culture of telling people immediately as soon as we know anything and running the risk that there will be many more unanswered questions. I think that is a risk that is better run than creating the impression in people's minds that we are hiding something, because we simply are not.

All we are trying to do is to give them the best information in the fullest form, and I think what needs to be said about this matter, after having an opportunity to reflect upon it, is that where agencies get to after they go through a process of analysis of data is not where they necessarily start at the beginning of the time when they get that data. These are complex matters that do require some analysis and, by the end of the matter when they reach their conclusions about this, what is sometimes visited against them is that they should have known that right back at the start. That ignores the complexity of the analysis that is undertaken to actually understand the picture here.

Some of the theories that they had about the way in which material of this sort moves through the soil profile have actually been changed through the gathering of additional evidence. So, when dealing with incomplete information, they are seeking to draw conclusions. This is not a simple matter. It requires careful expert judgement but, at all times, we have been at pains to make sure that the community knows the information as soon as we are secure about its veracity.

The SPEAKER: Supplementary, the leader.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:15): Can the Premier advise the house what his government means when they say 'co-design a new engagement paradigm'?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (15:15): I think the truth is that does defy explanation.

The Hon. J.R. Rau: It speaks for itself—res ipsa loquitur.

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL: That's right. I think a Latin term is appropriate here: res ipsa loquitur.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: Res ipsa loquitur? 'The thing speaks for itself.' The leader.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:16): My question is to the Premier. Given the Premier's commitment to axe government boards and committees unless they can justify their need, will the EPA board have to justify its need?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier) (15:16): Absolutely. I think this is a really powerful exercise, to invite every government board and committee to justify its existence. We have set out the sort of principles upon which that should be judged. There was an important piece of work that was done in the mid-eighties by Mr Uhrig, who set out some principles that assisted the commonwealth to go through and consider their steps to reconsider the rising 'quangos'—as they were called—that occurred in that era.

We are going through a similar exercise. I think it is a good discipline to ask, first: should this be a function that is supervised by an independent statutory authority, or does it need a board or committee? Secondly, could the role be changed in some other way that limited the scope of the operation of a board or committee or, indeed, if a board or committee is to exist, does it need to exist forever? Should it have a sunset clause on it? All of these are matters that we are going to challenge every statutory board and authority to justify. If they can't come up with a good explanation, then we will be presenting legislation, and I hope those opposite will support it through the parliament.

ADELAIDE CITY INVESTMENT

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (15:17): My question is to the Minister for Planning. Can the minister update the house about private investment in the city that has been unlocked since the government's planning reforms and other government work to support city investment?

The Hon. J.R. RAU (Enfield—Deputy Premier, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice Reform, Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Industrial Relations) (15:17): Yes, I can update the house. The government continues to support private investment in the Adelaide CBD. Our priority to create a more vibrant Adelaide has clear economic benefits, with government reform and investment strengthening business confidence and leveraging private investment.

Since the March 2012 planning reforms, applications for 65 potential projects for the CBD to the estimated value of about \$3 billion have been received, and 32 new projects totalling \$1 billion have been approved. The government recognised the need to break down some of the barriers for development in our city, and our changes have unlocked significant investment.

I recently launched a new interactive Adelaide Investment website to keep the public and development industry informed about investments in the city of Adelaide. The website—and the address is www.dpti.sa.gov.au/planning/adelaide_investment—includes an interactive city map which details approved, under construction and completed projects and public realm investments from the Planning and Development Fund as well as one we are particularly happy about, which is small licensed venue approvals—about which people were so sceptical not so long ago—since the introduction of the new licence category in the city.

Building on our reforms, the government recently announced an extension of the successful case management process that has been working in the city and inner metro areas. The Department of Premier and Cabinet's chief executive, Mr Jim Hallion, has taken on a new private sector development coordination role as coordinator-general to assist projects valued at over \$3 million to clear bureaucratic hurdles.

These blockages might be related to issues such as planning, environment, liquor licensing, council regulations, water, and others. We will find ways to remove the roadblocks where possible and achieve the best result and improve the system for everyone concerned. The government will continue to try to find ways to promote and support investment in our city. Our achievements to date should give business in the community great confidence that we will continue to achieve outstanding results.

MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY, ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

Mr MARSHALL (Dunstan—Leader of the Opposition) (15:20): Given that nobody else in South Australia has any confidence in the environment minister, will the Premier sack him?

The SPEAKER: Will the Premier be seated. I don't think questions should be framed in that way. It's clearly commentary, it's out of order and, accordingly, I call the member for Napier.

MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES PROGRAM

Mr GEE (Napier) (15:20): My question is to the Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation. Can the minister inform the house about state government assistance to link local manufacturers with emerging technologies?

The Hon. S.E. CLOSE (Port Adelaide—Minister for Manufacturing and Innovation, Minister for Automotive Transformation, Minister for the Public Sector) (15:21): I thank the member for his question. This morning I launched the Manufacturing Technologies Program. The Manufacturing Technologies Program aims to raise local industry's awareness and understanding of the availability and capabilities of new technologies being developed locally by our researchers.

Competing on innovation and value over cost and scale is the way forward for South Australian manufacturing. We want to expand the government's support for enterprises seeking to adopt new technologies in their pursuit of lower costs and more advanced manufacturing methods. This program not only maps the capabilities of universities and research providers but also investigates what may be useful for local manufacturers looking to take up new technologies.

There are multiple pathways to innovation. The Manufacturing Technologies Program will play an important role in helping South Australian firms choose the right pathway for them. There is significant untapped potential for firms to collaborate and for the government and public research sector to leverage our state's world-class applied research. In a two-stage process, the capabilities of the state's research providers and universities have been mapped to find what expertise and equipment is available to local manufacturers.

The next stage comprises a comprehensive industry survey to determine the level of industry knowledge around new technologies, which technologies are currently being implemented and how government can better assist local firms to use them. The technology areas to be explored include additive manufacturing, advanced materials, advanced robotics and automation, photonics, digital technology and big data analytics.

I can inform the house that this morning I attended a breakfast hosted by the Department of State Development with a number of manufacturing firms as well as researchers from universities, including, of course, the incredibly impressive Professor Tanya Monro who runs IPAS out of the University of Adelaide. It was an education simply to be at that breakfast. For an hour and a half we were informed of the full scale of existing technology and technology that is just starting to come into being and is available for our manufacturing companies to avail themselves of right now.

It's fantastic for us to have research and it's fantastic for us to have manufacturing companies. What we need is for the companies to know what kind of research is happening and for the researchers to understand what kind of possibilities there are for solving problems, real world

problems, problems that, if solved, will cause an enormous amount of economic activity and, therefore, benefit all of us.

The Manufacturing Technologies Program complements government-backed initiatives being run in partnership with Flinders University and Adelaide University to promote the uptake of medical device technologies, nanotechnology and photonics. I believe I informed the house previously about the work that was done with S.J. Cheesman in Port Pirie.

It has been a beneficiary of one of our grants to work with IPAS, the Photonics Institute at the University of Adelaide, where they have been able to create sensors that are able to measure up to 1,000 degrees, which has not been possible before, which means that molten metal is able to be measured at an incredibly accurate temperature, which of course is extremely useful in the smelting industry.

This government strongly believes that the future for South Australia is as a state that makes things. Manufacturing in this state is not on its deathbed. Indeed, in the 12 months to May 2014, an extra 8,000 people were employed across the state in the manufacturing sector. That takes the percentage of those employed in manufacturing to just under 10 per cent—

The SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired. The member for Heysen.

ARTS SA

Ms REDMOND (Heysen) (15:25): My question is to the Premier. In relation to a position within Arts SA that was created for Ms Nicole Burns in 2011, why was there a strategy for the creation of this position? The opposition has obtained under FOI emails between the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and Arts SA in which the Department of the Premier and Cabinet human resources consultant Elizabeth Neville states:

I have completely revised the position creation and appointment forms and have drafted a formal letter of offer.

She goes on to say:

The good thing about this strategy is that however long the transfer takes, it poses no risks, costs you nothing, and Nicole still gets paid.

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:26): The member for Heysen asked me questions on this matter last week in estimates and I undertook to get a report back to her. The time of these matters pre-dates, I think, both the Premier's time as Premier and certainly my time as Minister for the Arts. I am getting information from the agency and will provide it as I am able to.

The SPEAKER: The member for Ashford.

Members interjecting:

The SPEAKER: The member for Heysen seeks a supplementary.

ARTS SA

Ms REDMOND (Heysen) (15:26): Yes, sir, in relation to that last question and the answer from the Minister for the Arts. Could I ask that he provide details of what the strategy was when answering?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:26): I will find out. I do not know if the relevant officers are still in the employ of the department, or indeed the government. I will see what I can find out. I will provide as much information as I am able to. I think there is some restriction on what information I can provide as far as it pertains to individual public servants and their employment, but as far as I can I will provide relevant answers to the member.

The SPEAKER: Supplementary, member for Heysen.

ARTS SA

Ms REDMOND (Heysen) (15:27): Again on the same matter: was there a strategy in place because the said Nicole Burns previously worked for the member for Mawson?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Health Industries) (15:27): Likewise, you are asking about matters and an employment arrangement that happened before I was Minister for the Arts and before the Premier was Premier. I will have to find out information from the agency.

Grievance Debate

VOLUNTEERS

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (15:28): Today I rise to speak about the impact of the changes to the screening and the background check applications, particularly for volunteers here in South Australia, and the concern that the 2014-15 state budget is having on volunteers and the impact that it is going to have on attracting our young volunteers. Labor's announcement of a 33 per cent increase in these volunteer screening and background check charges, with the fees rising from between \$41 and \$55 to most volunteers, I think is outrageous.

We listened to ministers over the estimates period trying to justify it. We had one minister saying how volunteer numbers are increasing and another minister saying how it is harder to get volunteers and volunteer numbers are decreasing. I think we really need to look at exactly how volunteers are being impacted on by the current state budget.

Volunteering obviously is a vital part of South Australia, contributing to the economy in the vicinity of \$5 billion. It has a particular interest to me, especially in the Riverland and Mallee, with thousands of volunteers generating community spirit and adding to the regional economy.

Mr Acting Speaker, albeit as noisy as it is around me and you are not listening, in the state government's Strategic Plan, a key measure is this target of maintaining a higher level of formal and informal volunteering in South Australia at 70 per cent participation rate or higher, and the progress rating is negative movement at the moment.

I received quite a touching letter from one of the volunteers from Riding for the Disabled SA. The letter was from a Riverland-based Riding for the Disabled service and there were concerns that these changes mean volunteers will now be forced to pay for police checks when volunteers have been provided these checks free of charge previously. The group has 22 volunteers over the age of 18, and 40 all up. The letter came from Jodie Pearn and she is a great advocate for Riding for the Disabled in the Riverland and, in part, it stated:

My name is Jodie Pearn and I am the president of the Riverland branch of Riding for the Disabled.

The letter goes on:

[Riding for the Disabled SA] provides a unique service to the state community. Riders benefit in many different ways, we have had amazing results within our centre with Autistic riders interacting with people without hesitation. Clients with Cerebral Palsy and other muscular complaints have experienced incredible results including free movement of limbs that are normally tight and contracted. RDASA run state events twice a year—Mounted Games in May and State Dressage in September, for a lot of riders across the state this is the only competitive sport they are able to compete in due to physical and mental limitations.

It is one of the few outs that these people have. It continues:

All of this is not possible without our volunteers, I know just at our centre we have people that are struggling financially and can't afford a \$43 police check, this potentially closes centres (without volunteers we cannot operate).

This is just another example of the government looking a gift horse in the mouth, and the government putting the squeeze on our vital volunteer base. They are not valuing what volunteers do for South Australia. Riding for Disabled SA at Berri has worked hard to attract volunteers, but they are extremely concerned that they will now have to pay for that screening check.

Dr McFetridge interjecting:

Mr WHETSTONE: As the member for Morphett rightly says, it is a tax. These changes will have widespread impacts on many of the organisations and volunteers across the state. I call on the

volunteers in my electorate and across South Australia: voice your concerns and dismay at this poor decision. Write to the Premier, write to the Treasurer, write to minister Bettison, the Minister for Volunteers, express your concern—

The SPEAKER: The member for Chaffey will refer to the minister by her portfolio and not her name.

Mr WHETSTONE: The Minister for Volunteers.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. The rule is there for a reason.

Mr WHETSTONE: —write to the Treasurer, write to the Minister for Volunteers, express your concern to take away the burden that volunteers are now being asked to pay.

NATIONAL CALISTHENIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:33): I am delighted to bring to the house a report on the 26th National Calisthenic Championships held in Melbourne's Hamer Hall from 9-12 July. Many were doubters, but we filled that vast hall on at least a couple of days with the families and supporters of the hundreds of competitors from all over the nation.

This prestigious event held in equally magnificent surroundings was a showcase for the wonderful talent that exists at all levels of this marvellous sport which, while almost exclusively taken up by girls, this year enthusiastically embraced the sole male competitor from the Northern Territory.

I must commend the Australian Calisthenics Federation President, Liz Kratzel, and her entire team including Director of Planning and National Committee Convenor, Lynne Hayward, along with the Victorian organising committee too numerous to mention, led by CVI President, Angela Wijeratne and a special mention to mentor, Joy Smith.

The opening ceremony acknowledged traditional owners and sessions were attended by special guests including Victorian Minister for Sport, the Hon. Damian Drum, Deputy Lord Mayor Susan Riley and Hon. Heidi Victoria, Minister for Arts, Women's Affairs and Consumer Affairs along with CVI ambassador, Helen Richey, of *Dancing with the Stars* fame who is a celebrated competitive ballroom and Latin champion, and a two-time inductee of the dancing Hall of Fame. I was privileged to be given the significant honour of opening a session, no doubt in my role as national co-patron.

Calisthenics is a spectacular sport undertaken widely throughout Australia, except in Tasmania, where we are yet to make a significant inroad, with New South Wales another state where we would like to see greater participation. Special guest performers Soul Mystique were amazed by the skills and depth to our showcase event and will no doubt spread the word about the entertainment value of calisthenics, where our competitors can easily take it up for fun or take it up more seriously so their skills can easily be transferred to other disciplines such as dance or aerobics.

Because calisthenics provides enthusiasts with lifelong skills in many areas while bringing to their full potential the talents that each boy or girl possesses, it promotes a strong and healthy lifestyle and discipline and friendships which stand the test of time, with many cali competitors maintaining their interest and pursuit into the masters category with the Pan Pacific Masters Games to be held later this year on the Gold Coast, on Wednesday 5 November, which is Guy Fawkes' Day.

Here in South Australia calisthenics has given me many happy and fulfilling opportunities and memories, and I thank the calisthenics community in every capacity for welcoming me, someone who has never pulled on lycra—

Mr Gardner: There's always a chance to do it a first time.

Ms BEDFORD: Don't push it—or even sewn on a sequin, and for volunteering their time to give their young people such great opportunities. The Calisthenics Association of South Australia has bestowed on me the great honours of life member and state patron, two of the most prized achievements of my public life which, despite not contributing as much as many others, I have accepted as really undeserved recognition for a gladly-given commitment to a sport which I am proud to recommend to everyone as a family-friendly activity that is worthwhile on many levels.

While as national patron I cannot be partisan, it gives me great pleasure to put on record the results of the four day elite competition. In the sub juniors section, South Australia was placed first, WA second, Victoria third, and the ACT fourth. In juniors, South Australia was first, WA second, Victoria third and Queensland fourth, just in front of the teams from the ACT and the Northern Territory. In the intermediate section, WA was first, South Australia second, Victoria third and the Northern Territory fourth. In seniors, South Australia prevailed, with Victoria second, WA third and the ACT fourth. This means, of course, that South Australia becomes the national champion for the year.

In single and duo competitions, South Australia was well represented in the placings throughout. Thanks to all adjudicators and writers; their tasks are vital, valued and essential in this sport. Thanks also to all the great sponsors. Without them, women's sport, particularly sports like calisthenics, would not even be noticed at a national level. Thanks, too, to SA state president, John Maguire, and his backstage crew, including George, Mark and Paul. They work tirelessly for their daughters in their chosen sport.

I would also like to thank Bev Daysh and Carolyn Fortune for looking after me, as well as a myriad of other tasks for the Calisthenics Association of South Australia while they were there. I also thank the coaches, support staff, team managers, chaperones and costume creators. I would just like to put on the record that our sub junior coach this year was Nikki Ianunzio. Her assistants were Keron White, Kayla Kearney and Kylie Kurylowicz.

Our junior team was coached by Melissa Daysh, assisted by Sarah Stephenson and Lauren Williams. Our intermediate coach was Rebecca Norsworthy. Amy-Louise Vettese and Amy Hofmeyer assisted in that section. Our senior coach was Cassie Turner, assisted by Danae McGregor. It would be remiss of me not to put on record their thanks to Karen Darby for her sensational march routine.

Without seeing calisthenics, members, you just cannot possibly appreciate the sport and the opportunities and entertainment value it has, so I urge everyone to get behind their local club. There are many all over South Australia, and I look forward to seeing you at competitions shortly.

LOCAL COUNCILS

Mr SPEIRS (Bright) (15:38): I rise today to discuss a matter to which I attribute incredible importance, and that is the quality of our local councils and our local councillors. I want to acknowledge mayor Jayne Bates and deputy mayor Peter Clements from the Kangaroo Island Council, who I have just noticed are in the gallery today. I am not doing this speech because they are here, but I think it is good they are here to hear it regardless.

The reason for my grievance speech today has been prompted by an article on page 2 of the Adelaide *Advertiser*, with the headline, "Bullying" councillor told to say sorry'. The story provides a catalyst for me to stand up in this place and put on record some of the concerns I have long held about local councils, and in particular their ability to have their worthwhile agendas and good work hijacked by troublesome, troubled elected members whose own egos and fondness to play games come as a much higher priority than serving the community they have been elected to represent.

I spent just over three years as an elected member of the Marion council, two of those as deputy mayor. It is a council which is well regarded on many fronts. Currently, it holds the title of Australia's most sustainable city, winning that title in the Keep Australia Beautiful awards in November 2013 and winning a prestigious IAP2 community engagement award in September 2013.

This is a council with a strong, aligned leadership. The CEO has been in place for 14 years and the Mayor for a similar length of time. It is worth mentioning that the Mayor, Dr Felicity-ann Lewis, is the current South Australian of the Year, the president of the Australian Local Government Association and a person I am proud to call a good friend.

There are people who get elected to councils in South Australia and elsewhere for the right reasons, people who believe in their communities and who are working hard to drive change and be part of high quality governance in the areas that they call home, but sadly, Deputy Speaker, this is not always the case and in today's story on page 2 of *The Advertiser* we see where it can go wrong, with extensive and unfortunate consequences.

On page 2 of *The Advertiser* we see a situation where a councillor is taken to task by the State Ombudsman for, supposedly, bullying a fellow councillor. Councillor Kathleen Allen, a representative of the Southern Hills Ward in the City of Marion, because of personal reasons chose to take a private car paid for by the council to her new home in Mount Compass. Now, that is by the by. What then happened to her because of making this decision is one of the most disgraceful things I have seen in local government. Her colleague, councillor Hull, chose to take a harassing approach to this situation.

It should be mentioned that councillor Allen was allowed to do this under the council's policies on items that could be paid for by council, but this was not something that councillor Hull wanted to pay any attention to, the fact that it was allowed. What councillor Hull chose to do was get on Twitter and harass councillor Allen 23 times between 31 March and 21 May 2014; he put up discrediting comments which were described by the Ombudsman as 'repeated and/or sustained' evidence of bullying.

Having been on the Marion council and having seen what that council can do when it is aligned and doing good things, I am very disheartened by the reasons that some people get elected to council and what some people choose to do with that position of privilege and authority. I have often said in this place that, of the three tiers of government, local government has the capacity to be the most effective tier because of its ability to very immediately affect residents' lives in a positive way. Likewise, it also has the capacity to be the most dysfunctional and damaging tier of government, for the same reasons.

In the upcoming local government elections, I urge people with strong community credentials, enterprising minds and a desire to challenge the status quo to put their hands up for election. In the lottery of democracy they may not be able to choose their colleagues but I hope that those who are joined by a majority of like-minded people will be able to drive real reform in local councils.

NAIDOC WEEK

Ms HILDYARD (Reynell) (15:43): As I spoke about in my inaugural speech in this place, I have been a very long-term proud and active supporter of and speaker for our Recognise movement. I am also always very proud that Australia's and South Australia's story is one of the richest and longest in human history, spanning tens of thousands of years, with the oldest living culture on our planet at its heart. It is an inspiring and, indeed, impressive history.

During the last couple of months, during both Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks, I have had the opportunity to be part of several local community events in the south focused on reconciliation and recognition. At those events, I had great chats, as always, with local Aboriginal community leaders: Uncle Russell Milera, Auntie Georgina Williams, Auntie Leonie Brodie, Allan Sumner, David Copley, Theresa Francis and many others. As always, I was touched by their deep and enduring leadership in and for their communities. Over many years, I have also had the privilege of connecting with Aboriginal families in our southern community and visiting fantastic local Aboriginal organisations like Aboriginal Family Support Services and Neporendi.

On 11 July, I was part of the NAIDOC March on behalf of the state government. I was honoured to speak with everyone who gathered at the end of that march here on the steps of Parliament House. During NAIDOC week, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians stood together to remember and reflect on our past and to look forward to a future where Aboriginal people are recognised in our Australian Constitution (our founding document) and where their voices are always heard strongly in decisions affecting their communities.

At that NAIDOC march, we affirmed that it is more important than ever that we stand together against those who seek to tear apart the progress we have made in this regard. Being together on that day sent a strong message:

 a message that said together we do not agree with Prime Minister Abbott who recently and outrageously asserted that Australia was unsettled prior to the arrival of the first fleet;

- a message that said that together we oppose his decision to cut \$15 million in funding to the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples; and
- a message that said we will fight to stop him slashing almost \$10 million from essential services in communities and homelands, basically attempting to turn out the lights on those communities.

The federal government's Municipal and Essential Services program ensured funding of \$9.6 million in 2013-14. The program delivers essential and municipal services to all of South Australia's Aboriginal communities and homelands, their organisations and service providers—basic services that we all have a right to rely on. The funding also provides for the running, upkeep and replacement of minor infrastructure, contributes to community governance and generates much needed local employment opportunities.

These services are now at risk. The federal Liberal government has advised that they will cut this funding from June 2015. This cut will impact on more than 4,000 Aboriginal residents in approximately 60 South Australian communities, including in small homelands on the APY lands. It puts at risk the infrastructure as well as the delivery of services such as power, water, rubbish collection, roads and a whole range of other municipal services.

In total, Tony Abbott is ripping over half a billion dollars from Aboriginal communities and thereby attempting to rip the heart out of those communities. But that is something he will never be able to do, because the heart of those communities is big, strong and prepared to fight, and members on this side are prepared to fight alongside those communities. I know that many opposite share these views and I ask them to fight with and for those communities, too.

To date, Aboriginal people have not been involved in the decision-making process about these cuts, which are set to have a huge impact on their communities. We believe that Aboriginal people must be allowed to shape their own destiny through choice, not chance. This is fundamental to the concept of self-determination and to the spirit, heart and history of NAIDOC week.

So, as we think of the NAIDOC events many of us no doubt participated in in communities across our state two weeks ago, let us be proud that South Australia will become the first place anywhere in this country with legislation to recognise Aboriginal nations and their unique cultural identity. Let us reaffirm that we aspire to live in a country where we do not just acknowledge and respect the original culture but want everyone to wear it as a badge of honour and a symbol of our uniqueness in the world. Let us also commit to fighting together alongside our Aboriginal brothers and sisters against these cruel federal government cuts.

GORGE ROAD CLOSURES

Mr GARDNER (Morialta) (15:48): The township of Cudlee Creek in my electorate is a delightful area. It is not a hugely populated area. A couple of hundred people live there, some of whom work the land and some of whom work in town. It is a half-hour drive down the Gorge Road.

Anyone in metropolitan Adelaide listening to the radio in the morning in recent months would have had as a regular morning alarm that 'Gorge Road is closed again'. The member for Newland would be familiar with this community, as it was formerly in Newland. I think one of his election posters may still be up there. Sorry, it was the Morialta one. The member for Newland successfully took down his posters from Cudlee Creek in good time, even though Cudlee Creek is no longer in Newland. I digress.

The Gorge Road closures in recent times have been regular and of particular concern to this community. It is inconvenient for the residents, but for the most part, they understand that there are safety issues that need to be dealt with. The rockslides down the slopes of the Torrens Hill have been more concerning in recent times, and that has led to more regular closures. In the township of Cudlee Creek, there are three significant businesses. One is the Gorge Wildlife Park, which has been operating for some 50 years. If anybody has not actually been up there, I would encourage them to take a day and go to the Gorge Wildlife Park, which is a delightful—

The Hon. T.R. Kenyon: It is in my electorate.

Mr GARDNER: No, that is in Morialta, sir. I think you need to check a map. You had election posters there, but it is well and truly kilometres from the border. I digress; I have only three minutes left. The Gorge Wildlife Park is a wonderful institution, which I certainly encourage people to visit; the Cudlee Creek tavern and caravan park across the road is also the post office; and down the road is the Cudlee Café, which is a little bit further into the hills.

The tavern and the wildlife park employ nearly 50 people from the surrounding area. They are the major employers for kilometres around. They have suffered significant economic loss as a result of the closures when they happen. Many of the people who are going to the wildlife park are busloads of foreign students and tourists, and people go to the tavern for different reasons. When Gorge Road is closed, it is complicated to get there. People have to go up North East Road and down either Torrens Hill Road or Tippett Road to get there. It is further out of the way and people obviously have been directed to go down Gorge Road. The point is that those businesses have suffered significant economic loss in recent times, and a long-term solution is needed.

I have made contact with the minister and, through him, officers of his department have started to engage with the community, which is appreciated. When they did some work on Gorge Road taking down some trees and netting some of the rock face in the summer, there was no communication with the community. Five officers from DPTI who attended at the Cudlee Café with me and the local business community yesterday acknowledged that there were, in fact, significant mistakes made in March and a lack of communication to the local community that made life more inconvenient than it needed to be.

Yesterday's meeting was quite productive and, for the record, I will thank the officers for coming along and the government for allowing them to do so and beginning this engagement. I hope it is not the end of the engagement. I identify to the minister that our office will be hoping to have further meetings in September and October to discuss the long-term plans. In the short term, we had agreement from the officers that they will follow up and endeavour to get more accurate signals of the closures, so that when parts of the road are closed and parts of the road are open, the radio will be telling people accurately which parts of the road are closed, so that people do not go further out of the way than they need to. That lack of communication will hopefully be addressed, as they have also endeavoured to communicate better with local business owners directly.

Also, permanent signs may be put up on the corner of Tippett Road and Gorge Road, identifying that, even though Gorge Road is closed going back towards town, those businesses remain open, so that people are not deterred from going there. That is very important. In the long term, it has been identified that there may be some further moneys available in the maintenance budget for cutting trees and netting the rock face. I urge the government to make that money available as is necessary, as their officers indicated it could be and, when those works are done, to continue in engagement, so that the community knows well in advance and can make plans and put alternative arrangements in place if need be.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Ms WORTLEY (Torrens) (15:53): Since the federal Liberal Coalition government handed down the federal budget, I have had phone calls and visits to my office from constituents concerned about its impact on their lives. At street-corner meetings, I have also had constituents raise concerns. As their member in this parliament, I would like to be able to reassure them that there is no need to worry, that it will work out. While I am not able to do that, those opposite, the state Liberal opposition, could, by joining state Labor in speaking out and demanding that their federal colleagues reverse their decisions—decisions that will impact significantly on the lives of the people we represent and particularly on the lives of those most vulnerable, those who simply cannot afford it.

The more we hear about, or delve into, the Abbott government's first federal budget, the more we see that it is a budget that just keeps on taking from ordinary Australians. It is a budget that lifts the veil on who really matters to the federal Liberal government, and from where we stand on this side, all we hear from the Marshall-led liberal opposition—

Mr GARDNER: Point of order, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order, member for Morialta.

Mr GARDNER: The Speaker constantly reminds us not to use the member's name, but instead to use their titles, and he referred to that ruling only 20 minutes ago.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, unfortunately that is true, so we just need to make sure we refer to them by their ministerial title where they have a ministerial title.

Ms WORTLEY: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. So, what we hear from those opposite, the Liberal opposition, are sounds of silence. The federal budget shows just how out of touch they are with working families and others on low and fixed incomes. A \$7 payment to see the doctor may seem very little to them. The GP tax may be the difference between being able to buy enough food for the family for the week and having to go without what many of us would consider 'basic necessities'.

Evidence is already mounting that the GP tax will stop some people who need medical attention from seeing a doctor. There are families in my electorate who have told me that this will be a deciding factor for them because there are times when an extra \$7 just cannot be found. It is without doubt that this additional payment will stop some people who need to see a doctor from doing so and there will be serious and even tragic consequences resulting from this.

Just last week Labor opposition leader, Bill Shorten, received a petition from more than 3,000 doctors who are very unhappy about this tax—doctors who rightly believe that it is unfair, and that it hurts our most vulnerable citizens. The petition contains stories from doctors involved with delivering front-line health services telling the federal Liberal government in no uncertain terms that its GP tax is bad for Australians. The 2,500 doctors and the 500 medicos on this petition are pleading with the federal Liberal government to rethink their decision to impose this tax that will impact significantly on those who cannot afford it.

There is an example from one doctor of a 66-year old pensioner who came and asked, 'Are you charging the \$7 fee for a visit?' and the doctor's receptionist answered, 'Not yet.' He said, 'Good, because I want to quickly check with the doc if I should worry about this little headache I've had since this morning.' The doctor said he went on to check his blood pressure and his pulse and gave him medications to lower his blood pressure and he called the ambulance which took him to hospital. It was written on his discharge paper that he had suddenly collapsed in the emergency department, was resuscitated, and underwent successful emergency surgery. It is said that if the co-payment was already applicable he would have gone home and died.

The petition is full of real-life stories from real doctors about real patients. Unfortunately, the GP tax is just one of the many unfair and inequitable measures in the federal Liberal government's budget. Of course, we know that they are ripping away money that has already been committed to our vital health and education services, and to pensioner concessions. These are measures which hurt ordinary South Australians and those opposite are silent.

Labor will stand up and for our most-vulnerable citizens: our children, our elderly, our sick, our unemployed, and those with disabilities. We will fight for those who we have pledged to serve. That is why the Weatherill state Labor government is speaking out against this federal budget which is one of butchered promises and broken dreams.

Bills

APPROPRIATION BILL 2014

Estimates Committees

Adjourned debate on motion:

That the proposed expenditures referred to Estimates Committees A and B be agreed to.

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (15:59): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. It is my turn to report on having served our duties over the last five days and having actually been involved in the estimates process. I do not know if I am a masochist, but I am one of these people who actually enjoys it—I really do. I love to possess information about things; it is nice to be informed about things.

While it is a long day—I do not deny that—and I only served for three days in the estimates period this year, as opposed to previous years when I have sat in or been involved in asking

questions for someone else for six days, it still allows an opportunity to get the questions out there for the information to be available to the people of South Australia for scrutiny to be undertaken of the performances of those who ask the questions and, indeed, those who answer the questions and the information that is provided to them or around them to help them answer the questions.

As I have said to a lot of people in recent times, while it takes an enormous amount of work to prepare for estimates—from a ministerial perspective, there must be hundreds of hours, presumably, devoted to ensuring that the information is available to them—I think it provides the greatest possible involvement in what the budget envisages providing to South Australians in the next financial year and what it has done in the last financial year.

It is an opportunity that is presented to us, so I think we have to seize upon it and try to use it as intended, which is as a chance for scrutiny to be applied to the budget, for information to be provided and then for the people to form a judgement on its capacity to deliver the resources provided to it, the different priorities that have to be determined in setting a budget, and the great challenge of how it actually assists the South Australian economy to grow and provide services for our community.

The first session I had involvement with was the planning series of questions with minister Rau, the member for Enfield, and I enjoyed that. It is obvious to me that the minister possesses a very good grasp of planning matters—there is no doubt about it. He has held the portfolio for a little while now, but the fact that we were able to sit and have, at your chairing, I think, Deputy Speaker—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The best thing is you didn't know I was there.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Exactly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is how it should be.

Mr Marshall interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was hoping you would take me as 'ladybird Bedford'.

Mr GRIFFITHS: We were able to ask questions of each other in a way that allowed information to be relayed which, I think, was quite a revelation because it does not always occur in this place. There are a couple of little things I just wanted to highlight.

The answer to the first question I led off with, that I found rather interesting, was that the Development Assessment Commission, which is appointed by the state government to make decisions on significant planning matters and development approvals, did not actually exist for a 17-day period until that very day when the minister confirmed, in answer to my first question, that it had been gazetted on that day for the DAC to continue, with the previous members who served two-year terms having been extended for a nine-month period through to the end of March.

I thought it was interesting that the timing links into the greater review of planning that has been undertaken under the Development Act by the panel led by Mr Brian Hayes. Their report will come out soon in an interim form, and the final report will come down in December and go to the minister, in the first case, for consideration of the legislative impacts that will have and the recommendations and changes he wishes to pursue.

Interestingly, there has been a lot of debate about that. I am aware of a significant number of groups being involved in the review since a first-stage report came out some months ago. There is never going to be uniform agreement on all these areas, but I think there is a level of middle ground which should inform the consultation that occurs, once the legislation comes in, and what the final position might actually be of all these groups and individuals who have very divergent opinions.

That is a significant report. The group actually started their work in February of last year, when they were appointed, always with the intention of finalising their project by December 2014, so it will be interesting to see what happens.

It was interesting to me that, in the planning area, the Planning and Development Fund was noted as having \$2.8 million transferred from it to the Vibrant Cities program. Minister Rau certainly talked in glowing terms of the activities, the infrastructure and the events that had occurred from that. The point I raise is that the funding predominantly comes from greenfield development sites which, no doubt, could be used in many different areas to provide infrastructure, but the focus of the fund, even though I think the range of revenue per year—I am trying to remember what the minister quoted—was in the \$20 millions per year, is on the significant transfer to the Vibrant Cities. Minister Rau spoke quite passionately about some of the outcomes from that and the work that has been undertaken.

The 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide is one that has been with us for four or five years now, and a lot of work was done in preparing that. The minister and I have had discussions in some public forums. What was anticipated with that, which was a 70 per cent greenfield development and a 30 per cent infill development, has actually completely swapped over—nearly. I think it is 60 per cent now for infill and 40 per cent for greenfield development.

The minister certainly believes that that can continue for some time. He emphasised the reduced costs that it represents to the taxpayer by the better utilisation of infrastructure that already exists. I think it is part of the mindset challenge for people to consider what scope of house they wish to live in. Is it more of a traditional development option, no matter what the size of that is, but within their own confines and their own walls, or is it part of a much larger building where they share occupancy with others? That will be interesting. The review of the 30-year plan is to be undertaken in 2015, and I look forward to having some involvement in that and also its review.

A significant component of estimates for me, though, were the questions that I posed to minister Brock as regional development minister. The minister, in making his opening statement, as I understand it, made a suggestion of limiting it to around 10 minutes. The minister spoke for 13½ minutes, which I was not completely upset by because it did provide some information and some interesting points of reference for me, but the very first question from me was focused on what his initial impetus was in that opening statement about jobs.

I asked what I thought was a simple question of the minister which, given the large number of staff members who were either sitting next to him or behind or in the gallery behind him, he should have been able to answer. It was about what the unemployment rate was for the Barossa, Yorke and Mid North ABS data collection area for the June period. They all looked around. The minister said that he knew it but just wanted to check on it, and did not necessarily want to relay it until he was absolutely sure about what it was.

There was some discussion between them, and they still were not in a position to provide me with the details. Then I told him that it was 7.2 per cent and that the reason I posed the question was because it led into another thing that he talked about in his initial opening statement, the Job Accelerator Fund. Everyone who has listened to the minister in seemingly every interview that he has conducted since the time of agreeing with the Premier to form a minority government has been aware of the \$10 million Job Accelerator Fund. I commend him on the initiative of attracting that level of financial support.

My great frustration, though, and the frustration that all South Australians should feel, is that, some four months after the agreement to create this fund, a fund that is designed to exist only for one financial year (2014-15), we still do not have an agreement on its guidelines. I have been posing this question to the minister since the budget was announced, when there was confirmation of the dollars being available but no time lines, via the media. Again, I asked the minister what I thought would be a relatively simple question in which he could outline what his vision for it was, what the guidelines for it were, and when the guidelines were going to be produced and available for people to lodge expressions of interest.

Instead, I get the answer that it is still not finalised. There is a meeting on 5 August of a subcommittee of the Economic Development Board, which Mr Rob Chapman will be chairing, as I understand it. It is post that time, some date into the future, that the guidelines will be available, and then, finally, applications can be lodged for it. In emphasising my very first question to the minister about the unemployment rate in his own patch, a patch that I share with him, I did so on the basis of where this money needs to be available now, not some time into the future.

I am so disappointed by the fact that four months after the announcement of the funding being available we still come down to a situation where I do not know when the guidelines are going to be released, I do not know when the applications and expressions of interest can be lodged, and I have absolutely no idea of when the money will be finally delivered to on-the-ground projects, and

these are projects which create job opportunities and give communities a strong future. That is a disappointment that I have at a high level, and it is a frustration that all of us on the opposition benches feel. It is something that the government should be questioning their own minister about, about when this is finally going to come out and happen.

The next question area I asked minister Brock was about Regional Development Board funding. He stands up and tells me that as a result of a lot of meetings, the last one being on 17 July, there was an agreement on the guidelines for the funding. I have had a focus on core funding to be available for the RDAs. I have talked about a funding amount of \$3 million.

The minister confirmed that, with a pre-existing \$1.4 million and a subsequent enhancement of \$1.6 million, that \$3 million exists. However, the debate has been about the conditions attached to that and what level of surety of employment it provides for the RDA staff, who I believe need it desperately to ensure that they do not lose good staff. These are people in the main—certainly the ones that I have met—who have worked in the area for a good number of years. They understand the contacts and the opportunities, and they know who to talk to to hopefully make an opportunity happen. That is what I think policies need to be about, where we can ensure as much as humanly possible that visions become reality, and the loss of these staff I think will be very sadly felt.

That is why I have continued to ask questions on this topic, and other members of parliament have continued to ask questions on it. It is not because we have personal relationships with these people, it is because of what we have seen at our local level, in the communities in which we live, and the difference that they can make by making connections happen and by making opportunities a reality.

The minister told me (17 July) that there is an agreement in place. I asked him the question, 'If I was to ring each RDA CEO and conduct a straw poll, am I going to get the same sort of response?' He told me that it has been a result of negotiation, that there have been some words said and that they have reached a position on it. However, it is still so frustrating to me that it has taken this long for the RDAs—and I think such a high level of compromise that existed that I hope this funding, which is more than one year (I do respect that), allows for the RDA boards to do what they should be doing and what they have done in the past.

We also talked about Regional Impact Assessment Statements (RIAS). This is part of a cabinet approval process for legislation or decisions being made that impacts upon regional people. I quoted to the minister that there have only been 21 of those since 2003 and that there have only been five since 2010. The minister confirmed in his response to me that there have been none in 2013. The minister also notes that there is a review being undertaken of the Regional Impact Assessment Statement process. I said, 'So, minister, do you believe that there were no decisions made in 2013 by cabinet that actually impacted upon regional people?' He came up with the response that he is not responsible for that and his focus is on what the future is. I hope that the RIAS is a system that is worked extensively and used to help inform those who make the decisions, because it has to be.

Local government was the next area of questions for the minister, immediately following regional development. I listened to an opening statement on that area also; a little bit shorter than the other one—the 13½ minute one. My initial question was on a very topical issue that has consumed the minds of the people of South Australia for the last 22 days, being about the Emergency Management Council, especially as it relates to work that it should have been involved in and discussed about Clovelly Park and now Mitchell Park, and contamination concerns and the fact that we are out to potentially 1,400 homes that are involved in that.

I find it rather interesting that, in posing the question to the minister, there was a rather frustrated look on the faces of all his staff members, who thought, 'What is that question about?' The amazing part is, though, that when you look at the legislative requirements of who is actually on the Emergency Management Council, it lists him. The position that the minister holds is part of that group. We have heard in the chamber today of a meeting of the committee of the emergency management group, which is at a lower level—it is departmental CEOs, the LGA CEO and people like that—and which met on 25 June.

In asking questions to the minister about it: first, seemingly, he has no idea; no staff member around him has any idea; there were a large number of people who were there to support him who had no idea of the fact that he should have been involved in discussions from the community's perspective, as the local government minister. Then I wanted to ask the minister questions about whether he had had any contact with the City of Marion, which has responsibility for the provision of services to those communities—still none. The minister says that he has talked to the Local Government Association CEO and president, which I find interesting. I have no concern with that, but they do not live in Marion. They do not have the intimate relationship with the people of Marion council, as mayor Felicity-Ann Lewis—who the member for Bright referred to earlier on. He has only spoken to a higher level.

The minister has acknowledged it as 'not a bad suggestion, Steven' so I think his intention is now to set up a meeting and an opportunity for that to occur, but the frustration I have about the fact that either the minister has not considered the option, or the people around him who are quite often paid significant dollars, and the departmental CEOs who earn more than I ever will, have not thought of the fact that maybe we should suggest this to the boss. It comes down to that.

I do not expect every minister to know the answer to every question but they have a collection of people around them who should consider the issues, consider what the implications are, consider when they should give suggestions to their minister about where the minister should head and who he should talk to, what opportunities are presented, what are the challenges and what the outcomes need to be, and instead I got nothing. I find the fact that that occurs unbelievable.

So it is a criticism of the member for Frome, it is a criticism of the staff who support him within his own ministerial office (and I note there are nine) and it is a criticism of the departments of the government that actually support the minister to have allowed that situation to occur, that is, a person who is legislatively meant to be involved had not even given it consideration. It seems to me that he has had no briefing on it and does not understand it. He has probably heard it on radio, read it in the newspaper, heard questions in the parliament about it, but has taken no active involvement. I am not saying that I know everything but I have to tell you that that should have been something that was looked at.

In local government I also talked about the Premier's Local Government Forum which last met in October last year. After that, the Premier said that it was going to be three meetings per year. Here we are nine months after the fact, 'Hmm, don't know when the next one is.' We still do not know. In relation to the State/Local Government Relations Agreement, there was a draft of words on that in October last year. 'No, that is still not finalised; don't know when that is going to occur either because you need to do that at the forum.'

I suppose you have to question what the LGA is doing to try to make these things happen and what the minister who is responsible and who has experience in local government is actually trying to do to ensure that this occurs and to give some firm directions. I asked the minister particularly about rating and the cost to people who own property for the delivery of services and infrastructure and local government, 'What policies do you have, what initiatives do you have, what future visions do you have for local government about trying to reduce the impact of council rate increases?' The response from the minister was that he referred to 2005 financial viability reporting that was undertaken and studies and implementation of that by local government. He referred to some changes in 2010 but nothing since, absolutely nothing.

When I continued to question and asked 'Okay, in a contemporary sense, minister, what are the issues that occurred last financial year and what is your future vision for next financial year? I know you have only been there for four months, I know you were not in a position to actually determine, to a large degree, what was in the budget other than the agreement to form government issues, but regarding this one, what have you actually challenged your staff to produce?' I did not get an answer. There was no contemporary vision going forward of what local government challenges would be. The minister said to me that he intends to open up the act for review later this year. Absolutely, but he has no vision for it and I think that that is a great frustration.

Finally, I want to commend ministers who sit in this chamber during estimates and answer questions with very little reference to their staff members (or some where it is appropriate and I completely understand that), and particularly those ministers who do not have questions from their

own side, even though I can accept a few because I think there are some important issues that they probably want to get out or include as part of an introductory statement. I have absolutely no time for ministers who cannot answer any questions, continually refer to staff members and seemingly show contempt for the whole process and do not ensure that information is relayed, because they have let the people down.

You are put in an amazingly influential position where you have an opportunity within the scope of the four-year term of being in government and whatever period during that four years you are a minister to make a difference. That relies upon having the capacity to do so. The capacity to do so is challenging, there is absolutely no doubt about that. One of the challenges is that you have to have the capacity to sit at those tables and answer questions and do it in a way that influences people. For those who do it well, all power to you; for those who do it poorly, you should not be in here because you are not up to it.

I commend those who have done it well, and I commend the opposition shadow ministers who asked the questions well. It is an important one for the state and I hope it continues and only gets better in future years.

Mr WHETSTONE (Chaffey) (16:19): I too rise to express my views on the estimates process. I congratulate you. I do not think you had the bright jacket on during the course of estimates, but you were, I guess, admired because no-one actually noticed that you were there, so well done. I also congratulate the member for Little Para who chaired estimates B. I think his work was exemplary as well. As the member for Goyder has expressed—

The Hon. S.W. Key: What about his jacket? You didn't mention his jacket.

Ms Digance: Yes, what about his jacket?

Mr WHETSTONE: Whose?

The Hon. S.W. Key: The member for Little Para.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not lending the member for Little Para my jacket.

Mr WHETSTONE: No. He wouldn't look as good in that jacket either, let me tell you.

Ms Digance: We want some commentary on his jacket.

Mr WHETSTONE: Maybe he could wear the brooch. I am a little different to the member for Goyder; I find the estimates process a very frustrating exercise. A lot of effort goes into estimates on both sides of the house. Not only do ministers have to be briefed but they have to have their paperwork done. They have folders upon folders; their staff work many hours preparing answers, responses. The amount of time, effort and money that go into producing what is in those folders would be astronomical. On this side, too, a large amount of effort goes into preparing questions and constructing conversations, in more ways than one: the opposition questioning government ministers about exactly how they will prepare to roll out their budget and also the hidden bits and pieces in the budget, the hidden agendas behind decisions in the budget.

Well done to the members on this side of the house. In some instances, I congratulate some of the ministers on the way they conducted their answers, and I congratulate their staff because they were part of the process as well. However, there were some who did not perform so well, on both sides perhaps. It could have been a little better.

I was dismayed at some of the opening statements, the frustration with ministers. Some ministers were prepared to stand on their own with no opening statements; they did not have to take too many government-bred questions. However, some were reliant on support from their side, and that really does show that they are lacking something within to answer the questions and be able to shoulder the questioning, the scrutiny that the opposition put to them.

Again, the Dorothy Dixers were concerning. In some cases ministers spent more time reading statements and answering Dorothy Dixers than being scrutinised by the opposition. I think that was a failed exercise. Obviously ministers deflected some of the questions and just read out statements. Again, that reflects poorly on them. If they are to be remembered as credible ministers, they need to stand on their own two feet and know the brief. I think it is just as important: to know the

brief and be able to answer questions. Sure, they can rely on their staff but, again, they should be remembered as good ministers and not just as freeloaders.

I will move on to some of the committees I sat in on. I will start with sport, rec and racing. Obviously one of the topical issues in that portfolio was the \$50 sports voucher. I think that has created a bit of anxiety in the minister's office. He has even put out a press release criticising me over the questions I asked him. That might tell a story. It was on 2 March this year that the Premier put out a media release with the promise of \$50 vouchers to help families with the cost of kids' sport.

It was stated that all primary school age children will receive an annual voucher for \$50 towards their sports club fees under a re-elected Labor government. Well, what a fiasco. The questions went along and we gave it some scrutinising. There was no modelling. The minister did not refer to his department. The minister had no consultation. He referred to using other states' models. Some of those other states' models, if we look at the Northern Territory their sports voucher scheme is to help school age children and is for \$75 and it has just gone up to \$200 annually. So, it really shows that they mean business.

The 213,000 primary school aged children in South Australia, at public, private and Catholic schools, were told that they would have that \$50 voucher. Of that 213,000, I do not expect that every student will take that up, but if that program is exhausted in its entirety—the budget was \$7.7 million over four years. It does not take a rocket scientist to push a few buttons on a calculator and my numbers are telling me it is \$42.5 million to put a budget line to that program. So, I am wondering what the Treasurer must be thinking.

I have spoken to some crossbenchers and they tell me that they have met with the Treasurer over this scheme, one in particular put this scheme to the then sports minister some time ago, back in 2012, and the idea was given the boohoo because it cost too much money. Speaking to another crossbencher, they questioned the Treasurer and the Under Treasurer about who would be eligible for this scheme and they could not tell her. They could not tell her what sports were in and what sports were out.

So, I think it was policy on the run. There was little thought given to this election promise or this election sweetener and I must say that I am very disappointed with how the minister responded to questioning. I think the \$7.7 million over four years will not stretch far enough. Let us face it, we are less than six months away from implementing that model and they still have not worked out exactly what the rules are and how they will implement that funding.

The minister has said that families will not fill out the forms. I find that hard to believe. Any family would know how high the cost of living is for them at the moment: \$50 per year over a fouryear period, I think every family would be silly not to fill out the form and be eligible for that funding. I was very critical of, particularly, that initiative and how the government made an election promise with no consideration of how it was going to be implemented and what the budget bottom line could mean to the state. That is a \$35 million need for the budget bottom line. So, again, boohoo to that one.

I will not reflect too much on some of the other states. What I will say is that Western Australia and the Northern Territory have implemented these programs and they have done them on different bases: disadvantaged children, school cards, they have specifically targeted students and families that need that funding. I think it is a great initiative but the way this policy was rolled out it was just a sweetener for the election.

Moving on, we did talk about the SASI (South Australian Sports Institute) relocation. There was a feasibility study conducted two years ago. When I asked how long will that feasibility remain relevant, no-one knew. I think it was all about: we have an expectation of our elite sportsmen to go to the Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games and perform and bring home medals. We need that in South Australia.

We need role models, we need something that our young children can stand up for and cherish their sports heroes, and yet we see an uncertain future for SASI because we are not getting any certainty of just exactly whether the existing facilities will be upgraded or whether SASI will move to a new facility. I think that high performance program needs to have more focus put on it because we need role models here in South Australia. There are not enough of them. The sports heroes we

have I congratulate, but we need the continuing rolling of better sports people achieving at a high level.

Again, we heard that a small portion of the Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program fund is indexed but the rest of the grants in the department are not. That means there is less money available for sporting clubs when one normally expects grants to rise with inflation. That is something I am hoping the minister will take away with him and look at how we can index that grant program to inflation. Let's face it, as every mother and father here knows, sports attire is not cheap and it is ongoing. If children are lucky enough to play more than one code of sport, you cannot go running in your footy boots and you need a different top when you play cricket from when you play football. It is a drain on the budget.

We touched on Coopers Stadium at Hindmarsh and noted that it will be hosting the lingerie football via the legends league. I asked the minister about that and he said he knew nothing about it. The minister knows everything about sport, but he knew nothing of the lingerie league. I will be waiting with interest to see what Petra Starke writes in her column and says about that.

Without further ado, we will have a bit of a look at VACSWIM's structure. It was noted that there were about 13,500 participants in 2012-13 but, sadly, that is dropping away. That is something that is critically important, particularly in regional South Australia. It is critical in all parts of South Australia, but in my electorate we do not have a lot of big swimming facilities—we do have some town pools—but we have the river, and you cannot see to the bottom of the river. Kids swimming in the river are at risk if they sink, so we need to have our kids swimming. When we go to the beaches, we need to have our kids competent in the water. I think the minister needs to do a little bit of rejigging of some of his ideas and he needs to come out with a much clearer long-term vision for sport in South Australia.

Touching on investment and trade, we talked about the South-East Asia strategy funding of \$1.1 million over four years. I asked the minister whether he thought that was enough, and it is clearly not enough. I am sure that the previous minister for industry and trade would agree with me that a strategy that could mean so much to the state's economy having a measly \$1.1 million over four years will not span far enough. I think both the then minister and the now minister will agree with me that it is a very modest amount of money for a very important strategy that this state will rely on more and more as time goes by.

The government seeks art, education and cultural outcomes from that program as well, and I think it is not just about exporting our commodities and agricultural products, our food, our wine, but it is about the investment we need in bringing in international students, particularly with arts and cultural outcomes. I think it is critically important for this state. It is not just about generating money, but it is important for the culture of this state. In spreading the message, the tourism dollars will come back to South Australia because South Australia is a great place to visit. Many of my former employees on the farm tell their relatives in faraway places that it is a beautiful place to visit and a great place to work. It is a land of opportunity.

It also appears that travel costs for trade missions to South-East Asia will come from this budget. Again, I feel there is too much pressure being put on the SMEs when they are trying to develop products and markets. They do need government assistance when it comes to developing relationships with their international trade partners. Again, we need to look at that and work further on it. The gateway budget to assist those SMEs has been slashed. As I have just said, those SMEs need support. They are doing what they can to produce food and wine. They are producing commodities and producing, to a lesser degree, the higher end manufactured products. I think that the government will have to refocus where they are going to put an important amount of money into generating an economy that is growing at the moment but is sadly not growing quickly enough.

One thing that came out of the conversation I had with the minister is that I think he agrees that we need more effort and support to take businesses overseas to create opportunities. So, I am relying on him to lobby his colleagues, the Premier and the Treasurer to do more to help the people who are generating the state's economy.

Travel protocols certainly need to be reviewed. It was revealed that, in recent trips overseas, we had ministers, their advisers and their takeaways travelling first class. How does that work?

Where is the protocol there? I cannot agree with ministers taking first class tickets anywhere in the world. Business class, yes, but I think that first-class tickets is an extremity of indulgence.

The government continues to fall short on its Strategic Plan target of 45,000 international students. This year it is 15,000 short. I think we need to have a look at exactly why it is 15,000 short. Are other states taking our international students from us? I suspect so. I know that Victoria is working very hard on attracting international students. They have a long-term vision, and that is something we are lacking here in South Australia, particularly with enticing those students to come here to study.

The minister seemed clueless about the need for South Australia to be recognised in China as a fruit fly-free area. China is about to sign a free trade agreement with Australia, and South Australia will benefit in many areas, particularly wine and food. Having been a citrus grower and a wine producer, I know that a fruit fly-free status is critically important for a relationship-building exercise, particularly in China, that they know that they have a pest-free piece of fruit, and, at the moment, China does not recognise that area of freedom. That is something the minister has said he will go away and concentrate on. I will be very interested to see how much concentration he puts into that.

Just quickly, I want to refer to the environment, water and natural resources. There has been a continual reduction in the number of park rangers. In my electorate, I have some of the bigger parks in the state, particularly in the Riverland and the Mallee. We have 4.2 full-time equivalent rangers to look after a huge amount of land. As some people in this house might understand, just recently we have had significant bushfires in this state. So, the fewer rangers we have, the fewer people we have on the ground, the fewer staff we have to address the issues of the need for cold burns, prescription burns, managing the parks, managing these conservation areas.

One thing that really does bother me is that a lot of the time these fires are starting in parks, but then they are coming out of the parks and then start to burn private properties, and then we see loss of income for people, loss of fencing and loss of equipment. It is very lucky that we did not have any loss of life in these last couple of major bushfires.

Obviously, we had the EPA, and the Leader of the Opposition (the member for Dunstan) came in and, I think rightfully so, asked the right questions of the minister. Sadly, the minister took an extended toilet break. He read out an opening statement, by the time he had finished it was 14 minutes in, and I think that was outrageous. I will note that the member for Little Para did give a time extension; that will not be denied. But for the minister to give opening statements like he did, I think he is hiding. Like I said to him, 'Minister, you can run, but you can't hide.' Obviously I am going to run out of time, but I will speak about some of the water issues at another time. The desal plant and what happens when we have another drought are issues that the minister will need to address in the future.

Mr KNOLL (Schubert) (16:40): Sorry, member for Ashford. I think last time you jumped up in front of me to continue your remarks, so I call this getting one back—although I would much prefer to hear your remarks. As one of the new kids in this place, estimates is something that I have looked forward to with great relish. Having seen some of the great battles that happen in the federal parliament that are televised, with the great debates and the incisive questioning that lead to probity and independence and transparency of government, I was all set and looking forward to a very fun and fruitful estimates season.

I was so keen that I put my hand up to be involved in about 50 per cent of the estimates process. I understand, Deputy Speaker, that you and the member for Little Para would have had to be in here for quite an extended period of time but, as somebody who has choice in these matters, I was quite keen and jumped on board with as much as I could get involved with, to learn. Alas, towards the end of this process, I do feel a bit browbeaten, a little bit downtrodden and a little bit cynical and I would have hoped it would take a little bit longer than it has to arrive at this point.

I shared a level of cynicism with those opposite, in that they were rating the questioners on their questions throughout the day and those who did not have government questions had a little bit more time on their hands. Certainly, on this side of the fence, I did take note of the many ministers whose portfolios I was fortunate enough to sit in on, and I would like to give a short and brief summary of that to begin with.

First was the Treasurer (member for West Torrens) who I thought actually came to estimates in the right spirit. He is certainly somebody who feels confident in his portfolio. He did not have government questions asked of him and he at least tried, in the spirit of estimates, to give fruitful answers. Certainly, the Treasurer's style was at times combative, but there was a genuine flow of information and I did feel confident that he knew a lot of the basic numbers.

I then moved on to the Attorney-General's evidence about WorkCover and occupational health and safety issues. Certainly, the session with the CEO of WorkCover, Greg McCarthy, was again in the right spirit. As somebody who sits on the occupational safety, rehabilitation and compensation committee, it was great to hear from Greg McCarthy. A lot of what he said gives me hope that we will start to see strong improvement in the management of the WorkCover scheme, especially in relation to the questions around early intervention and trying to create a more simplified system that stands true to what the WorkCover system was designed to be about. I was quite encouraged by that.

Certainly, minister Rau definitely came to estimates with the right intentions and he enjoys his own contributions as much as I think we do, although I do think the highlight of the evening was the member for Ashford's taken-as-a-comment question about the good work of the occupational health and safety, rehabilitation and compensation committee and I did echo those sentiments.

The Hon. S.W. Key: It needs to be renamed.

Mr KNOLL: I am getting tongue-tied just saying it. I then moved on to an estimates about the Office of the Status for Women with minister Gago, from the other place, in the other place. It is interesting that we had a whole hour for a program with a budget of \$1.98 million. It was a whole hour for a program that is only \$1.98 million. I am not discussing whether or not that figure should be more or less but am merely saying that it seems quite disproportionate. As the previous speaker in this debate, the member for Chaffey, pointed out, for minister Hunter's 30-minute period of questioning around the Environmental Protection Agency, 14 minutes was spent on an opening statement, and then there were government members' questions of which 'Dorothy' would have been proud.

The other thing I found quite interesting was that when I read through the program for the Office for Women I noted there were 16.6 full-time equivalent staff assigned to this office. It seemed to me that at least nine of them were sitting in estimates with us, and that makes me wonder why there were so many. If over 50 per cent of a department can be sitting there in estimates, it begs the question if the remaining 7.6, or indeed less than that, were the ones having to pick up the workload for the day. It just struck me as quite odd to have so many people there for a department that is quite small.

I had the great pleasure of sitting in on estimates dealing with many aspects of education, and to watch the Minister for Education spar with the member for Unley. I think all those present would have enjoyed the back and forth, and I would like to congratulate the member for Little Para on his efforts to restore order and sanity to the process.

The member for Wright has been in this place for some time, and it did seem to me a little bit underwhelming that she would use the processes of estimates and government questions to her advantage. In fact, I think she seemed quite keen in her government questions, and in the answers to those questions, to talk more about opposition policy rather than trumpeting the reforms of her own government.

Indeed I watched with startled interest, and chuckled to myself, as the member for Napier turned the pages on answers to questions he had asked at the same rate as the minister answered those questions, with what I assume to be the same folder. It was quite a farce, and something that really disappointed me. However, I must admit that the two government members sitting next to him did not turn the pages in unison as well, so there was no seconding of my theory.

I managed to sit in on Minister Bettison, the member for Ramsay, again, someone who-

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Social Inclusion.

Mr KNOLL: Sorry, the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion-

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going to take offence.

Mr KNOLL: —needed to be protected in the extreme. It was, again, quite underwhelming that a minister of the government required so much insulation from opposition questions when the member for Adelaide's questioning on topics was, I thought, quite reasonable and balanced, and certainly aimed in the right spirit. Even though questioning was done in that light, the minister still saw fit to use the processes of estimates to her advantage.

I was also fortunate enough to sit in on the Minister for Manufacturing during her question time with the member for Stuart. I must admit that was done in a very collegiate manner, and I think a lot of good information came out of it. The questioning was respectful and the answers were quite respectful, and I do believe that the minister was endeavouring, quite strongly, to answer the questions. I suppose in the topsy turvy and ups and downs of the emotional rollercoaster I went on, with the estimates season, that was rather a highlight, so I would like to thank and congratulate her for that.

Lastly, the member for Lee, the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, came in. He had no opening statement, there were no government questions, and I thought 'This is a man on top of his brief. Here is a man who is willing to use estimates in the right light.' Whilst he certainly did not waste any of estimates time using government questions or opening statements, he certainly was not of a mind to answer any questions either.

Mr Whetstone interjecting:

Mr KNOLL: There were 46 noes, was that? No matter how the member for Bragg tried to probe, his answers were frustratingly acute and brief. He certainly was not going to give us anything above the absolute minimum—and I believe less than the absolute minimum—that he could. Nevertheless, it was what it was. As a backbench MP, I watched a lot of that. My highlight was being able to enter the omnibus questions. I think I got them in in about 90 seconds. I think the member for Morphett and I are going to have a bit of a race about who can—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are the heir apparent.

Mr KNOLL: —talk the quickest; we will see. I was fortunate enough, given that we do not allow upper house shadow ministers to participate in the estimates process—and I have my own views on the Legislative Council—to be given the opportunity to ask a number of questions of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests and Minister for Tourism and Recreation and Sport. It was most enlightening.

The minister is one to trumpet bipartisanship in all he does, but I believe that he is, to a certain degree, disingenuous in this. In the spirit of bipartisanship, he could have been a lot more open and frank if, indeed, that is a mantra that he holds to himself. I will make some remarks in a moment in regard to some of the questions I was fortunate enough to ask him.

In my last budget measures speech that I gave a couple of weeks ago, I was on the verge of discussing budget blowouts and the \$331 million that this government overspent well and beyond its own budget. So, this is not a standard that we set for the government: it is a standard it sets for itself and has failed to meet, time and time again. In the spirit of ranking ministers, I have broken down by portfolio and department those who have overspent and by what percentages. It is quite instructive to see those who are on top of the money within their portfolios and departments and those who are not.

The minister in charge of Defence SA has only been in charge for a short period of time, although his ministerial statements in this place suggest that he believes he has made a solid contribution in that short period of time, was 67 per cent over budget for this last financial year. I think that is something that he definitely needs to address. Next cab off the rank is the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy. There are a number of ministers in charge of that but, together, they can accept collective responsibility for the 17 per cent overspend on their budget.

Next cab off the rank and quite close behind—and this has quite startling implications for the coming budget cuts this year—is Primary Industries and Regions. The Minister for Agriculture was 15 per cent over budget. Given the huge amount of cuts he needs to initiate in this current 2014-15

budget, he has not been able to get his spending under control in previous budgets, so I wonder how he is going to be able to institute the cuts that he has been given.

Mr Whetstone: It is all on travel.

Mr KNOLL: The minister for trips to China! The embattled minister for environment, water and natural resources, and in charge of the Environment Protection Authority—minister Hunter, in the other place—was 14 per cent over budget for the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

The EPA is 10 per cent over budget, although I give them a bit of leeway given the fact that they make a profit that gets returned to general revenue. I feel that they are certainly more than pulling their weight in that department. In fact, we may even suggest that some of that \$8 million profit that I think is projected for this year could be sent back to the EPA for them to do more with their work.

The last one I will talk about today is the Department of Treasury and Finance. I would have thought that the bean counters in Treasury and Finance, who I have quite a soft spot for, have to say no so very often. In their estimates questioning, they discussed the fact that, following the overspend on the RISTEC IT project, they did not go back to the general government revenue to seek more money. Indeed, they found savings within their department to pay for it.

However, even they were 14 per cent over budget in the 2013-14 year. If Treasury and Finance cannot manage their own budget, what hope is there for their ability to try to help other ministers manage their own budgets across the government's portfolios? It really does speak, I think, to a lack of discipline.

The member for Davenport talked earlier of that fateful day on 31 May 2012 when the South Australian state government lost their AAA credit rating and, with it, their ability to control their own spending with what little restraint they had.

We asked a large number of questions of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, and the first cab off the rank was: 'Will the minister confirm in the 2014-15 budget that \$59.8 million is the lowest budget for 12 years?' The minister said, 'No, no, no, if you go to the budget papers it says that total expenses are \$221 million.' We thought, 'Wow, okay, that is much higher figure than the \$59 million.'

We went back and looked at the budget papers and thought that that was a bit rough. Given how many members opposite have spent so much of this chamber's time bagging the federal budget cuts, here is a minister who is not admitting to his own state government's cut, yet he is taking credit for the \$60 million increase that the commonwealth government has given to his department, the \$60 million increase that he has received from the federal government—no mention of that, no mention whatsoever.

He was certainly having a bit of a dig at the feds about anything they have sought to do, but when the feds put an extra \$60 million into his department he is all too quick to take responsibility and to take credit for that good work. No, their PIRSA budget is going up, not down. I found that quite disingenuous. You cannot have it both ways: either you are going to be transparent about the ups and downs of federal government spending in regard to the state budget or you are not. The idea that you can have it both ways simply does not work.

We asked questions about the Loxton Research Centre in the member for Chaffey's electorate. The member for Chaffey is very keen to get this project up and running as quickly as possible because of the jobs it will create in his region. In the 2013-14 year, \$150,000 was spent on consultation for this project. I find that an extraordinary figure, and I would love to know the breakdown of it. The idea that \$150,000 needs to be spent on having conversations with the public, who I am very, very certain have not been paid, is over the top.

A thought bubble that has existed within the department or the minister is the 'new initiative funding for a new regulatory standard for premium South Australian food'. When I asked questions about what that meant, I was not given a satisfactory answer. I said, 'Surely this is more regulation,' and the minister said, 'No, no, no, this is not a new regulatory standard.'

In the budget papers, it clearly says 'initiative funding for a new regulatory standard'—not my words, his words. I did not put these words on a piece of paper. I was merely trying to hold the minister to account for his own words. He said, 'No, no, it's not a new regulatory standard and it will sit within existing regulations.' Well, if it sits within existing regulations, I am really not sure about the need for it.

I am really not sure about that government's track record when it comes to previous initiatives in this area and, more specifically, taking down the Buy SA website over concerns about being unable to manage and verify the veracity of people using the Buy SA logo. I do wonder about what sort of liability the government is willing to accept on these issues.

There is another thought bubble somewhere within primary industries. We asked: what is the High Value Food Manufacturing Centre and what is the Food Innovation Hub? They are listed separately in the budget, yet it turns out that they are the same thing. I would have thought that if they were the same thing that we could call them the same thing but, no, the Food Innovation Hub and the High Value Food Manufacturing Centre need to be two different things for some reason unbeknown to the merely simple members opposite here.

I do think that we need to rename the primary industries department 'the department for brands'. It seems that the minister, and his department, is very keen to create as many brands as he can. I see on the lapels of members opposite the Brand SA logo, and I think that is fantastic. Investing in one brand is a very smart solution for a small state, but in addition to this brand we have the Food Innovation Hub brand and we have the premium food from our clean, green environment brand.

We have a new brand for the Barossa region, the trust mark, which is a fantastic initiative, but we are now going to have trust marks for a number of regions. It seems that this minister is very keen to create many brands, including his premium food regulatory brand and his free-range food premium brand, which we could not get to the bottom of. It seems that this minister for brands loves signing off on a new logo and being able to host fabulous dinners for it.

With the last 45, 35 seconds I would like to give the government a bit of a tick. After three or four weeks of scouring since the budget was handed down I have found a mention of the electorate of Schubert. I was glad that the minister confirmed that over this next financial year they are going to commit a further \$2.7 million for the Barossa Be Consumed campaign, which was rated as the best tourism ad in the world at a French awards ceremony and is a fantastic initiative for my region. I do congratulate the minister on that extra \$2.7 million and I do thank him for that and the people of Schubert also thank him.

Sitting extended beyond 17:00 on motion of Hon. S.E. Close.

The Hon. S.W. KEY (Ashford) (17:00): I have to say that I found this to be the most interesting estimates that I have been involved in, except when I was a minister. I have to say that certainly topped it; being the minister and getting the questions is a little bit different. I also enjoyed estimates as a shadow minister, particularly in the industrial relations area. That was a fascinating experience.

The reason I appreciated this particular estimates process is, I guess, the committees that I was on. I would have to say the majority of the committees that I was part of did not have government questions and I actually think that adds to the whole debate. There are a number of comments that have been made about government questions, but part of the strategy of estimates is for the government to be able to showcase the important initiatives that have been made with regard to the budget. I think if we are going to reform estimates, we need to make sure that there is not only an examination of the budget and an opportunity for the opposition in particular to ask those questions, but we need to find a way of making sure that the highlights are also emphasised.

One of the areas that I did not sit in on but was very keen to find out what had been discussed was in the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Youth and Minister for Volunteers. I was particularly interested to see what sort of questions would be asked in that area, and I guess this is an example of where I think government questions were really important, because it did not seem as if the opposition wanted to emphasise some of the more positive things of the budget.

I understand that the minister was asked about us protecting South Australian pensioners and low income earners from some of the cuts that have been announced with regard to the federal government's concessions, and I am very proud of the fact that our government has made sure that pensioners will have some support, at least in the next financial year, with regard to concession entitlements.

As members would probably know, the National Partnership Agreement on Certain Concessions for Pensioner Concession Card and Seniors Card Holders has been cut, and so South Australia will not receive almost \$30 million to support those pensioner concession cards and seniors card holders. Certainly in Ashford, and I am sure other members will have constituents who really rely on these concessions, this is most concerning. I think there is an opportunity here to congratulate the government, and it certainly did not come through opposition questioning. It was actually a government question that gave us this information and made it clear that not only will the election commitment by Labor be honoured—this is the increase of the energy concession from 1 July, which raises the maximum annual rate from \$165 per annum to \$215 per annum.

Also, something that I was involved in campaigning for and I am very pleased that the government accepted, along with a number of members in here on both sides of parliament—and I am pleased to see the Minister for Regional Affairs here, because he was one of the people who campaigned for a concession for South Australians who have chronic medical conditions, as did the Hon. Kelly Vincent in the other place. This was one of the areas where we raised the issues on behalf of our collective constituents and some of the organisations that represent people with varying abilities and disabilities. I am very pleased that this will continue.

I am told that over 2,000 South Australians currently receive medical heating and cooling concessions, and there will also be a \$50 increase which has the potential, I am advised, of a \$100 per annum increase should constituents be eligible for the normal energy concession. This is a really important thing for people in our community and the people that we represent. I do not think that that good news would have come out if we had just stuck to opposition questions on that particular portfolio.

Having been in opposition—albeit briefly, I am pleased to say—I do understand why the opposition would ask questions that are difficult, and interrogate the ministers with regard to their budget lines. But, I think we also need to have an opportunity, if we are going to reform estimates, to make sure that we also hear the good news. As far as I can work out, because the interrogation was not as good as it could have been, some of the more negative things that are associated with the budget—

Mr Picton: It's just like them complaining about the election result.

The Hon. S.W. KEY: Yes, let's not go there, member for Kaurna; I don't think I could stand that debate going any further. One of the things that was very dear to my heart, and has been for quite some time, is the provision of services to people in our community, particularly vulnerable people, people who are escaping domestic violence, and also the issue of homelessness. I know that, again, I probably share these concerns with everybody in this chamber.

But you do have to make the connection, because a lot of our funding, particularly in those service areas, is connected to commonwealth-state agreements, that the fact that there has been a cutback announced by the federal government in their federal budget means there will be a lot of cutbacks in services in South Australia, because there is just not the ability for the state government to match those areas.

I was very honoured on Tuesday to represent the Minister for the Status of Women at a day of action that had been organised by the various domestic violence organisations in South Australia. It was really important that we acknowledged that, while these workers provide an amazing service, a lot of it out of their own work time, there is going to be a serious problem with the cutbacks to these organisations.

A majority of the providers, as people in here would know, are not-for-profit organisations, and their role is to help homeless people and people at risk of homelessness. There are also, as I

said, vulnerable people that have a whole lot of other complex problems that make it difficult for them to access stable and secure accommodation.

In South Australia, I am advised that the clients are predominantly female (59 per cent) and there are many clients in the demographic of 18 to 44 years. So, we have particular people who are suffering or will be suffering from chronic homelessness. Also, one in three people who approach specialist homeless services are escaping domestic violence. I am pleased to say the state government has consistently—certainly, since 2002—had a commitment to trying to assist people in these situations.

When South Australia's Strategic Plan was adopted, target 18 aims to see significant and sustained reduction in violence against women through to 2022. The problem is that we seem to have failed quite dismally. The need for support for people escaping domestic violence—not only women but particularly women and children—has increased, so I think it is even more important that we make sure that those services that are available are not only continued but enhanced. With the cuts from the federal budget, I am not quite sure how that is going to happen, but the commitment is obviously still there.

Unfortunately, I did not notice in the estimates committee for the Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion that there were any questions about this area, so I would like to bring to the attention, particularly of members opposite, that this is something that we really do need to speak to federal representatives about, because there will be dire consequences for people: more and more people being homeless and more and more people escaping domestic violence.

As I said, the numbers are going up rather than down. There have been a number of strategies put in place. My view is that we need to also address a cultural campaign. If people are still thinking that violence is acceptable then we have serious problems on our hands with upcoming generations, because this will be seen as an ongoing acceptable way to behave.

As I said, I quite enjoyed this lot of estimates. While I said that I found some of the questions asked by the opposition underwhelming, I thought that a lot of them showed that they had done a fair bit of work in their particular areas of interest. I do compliment particularly the new members for the role that they played and the enthusiasm that they showed for the process. I hope—unlike the member for Schubert's comments—that this enthusiasm continues, because it is really important that we do understand our state budget and it is really important that we also celebrate the positive things that are being put through the different portfolios.

I am very impressed that the presiding members managed to come through all those days chairing, and I thank them very much. I had the benefit of being in both estimates A and estimates B for different committees and I think the presiding members did a splendid job, so thank you very much; I think it added to the atmosphere in the particular estimates committee.

My final words are that I really hope that we do try to reform the estimates process for the better. I have certainly been complaining about it (and I am one of the more positive people about estimates) since I have been here. Certainly the previous Liberal government did not want to move on it, although they agreed at the time that it was a flawed process, and I think our Labor government needs to take some responsibility for the fact that we have not sought to enhance the process. I hope that there will be some reform in that area.

Mr TARZIA (Hartley) (17:13): I would like to sum up this latest estimates process in one word, and that would be 'anticlimax'. I was quite excited about engaging in the estimates process, having scrutinised and analysed the budget papers for a couple of weeks, running through line by line the numbers that affect the good people of South Australia. I have to say that it was very much an anticlimax to see—

The Hon. P. Caica: They should have let you ask more questions; they never let you ask any questions.

Mr TARZIA: I agree, member for Colton. This is the good thing about being in opposition, member for Colton: you get to learn the ropes back here, but maybe one day. It is disappointing to see that the government could not better discharge their duty to act as a responsible government for

the good people of South Australia. However, in saying that, I do want to say a big thank you to all the public servants.

I was quite surprised that the process was somewhat adversarial. It was very much us versus them, but I do not want it to be that way with the Public Service, and I want to thank them for the contribution they made across the board. I certainly do not blame the good public servants for their work, but I do blame the government ministers. There were some great Dorothy Dixers, and I would probably go so far as to say that there would be a couple of nominations for the Logie Awards coming up for some of the best acting I saw during that process, but here we are.

They promised a surplus; obviously, we saw over a billion-dollar deficit. This year we are also promised a smaller deficit. I am hoping that this government will not be trying to break the recordsetting deficit again this year. The major concern for me was cuts to programs that help to stimulate our economy. We certainly need to support our businesses especially and not abandon them, and I will go into a couple of measures that just astonished me.

For some reason, there seems to be an idea that businesses should not be making a profit, that we should be taxing businesses to patch up the budget deficit. What the government obviously has not understood is that if South Australia does not prosper and grow and these businesses do not grow, these businesses will pack up and move interstate.

We have seen it time and time again, and the government refuses to take responsibility for it. We have seen that unemployment in this state is actually the highest in the nation at the moment, at 7.4 per cent, and it is time that we stopped the blame game and started looking for solutions.

In estimates, there was mention of the Olympic Dam proposal, which would have represented a project of tens of billions of dollars of investment in this state, but it was certainly stifled by the Labor mentality of taxing and taxing the economy into prosperity. I can tell you that the idea of taxing economy into prosperity and taxing our way out of this rut is simply not going to work.

I was especially astonished to see that the royalty rate on extractive minerals will be increased from 35ϕ a tonne to 55ϕ a tonne. That is absolutely remarkable. This is an increase in this cost alone of over 50 per cent—and it is not an increase in cost of over 50 per cent with consultation with the industry, it is an increase in cost which has been quick, fast and without consultation and it is going to hurt mining in this state.

To hear the minister—a minister who is well skilled in the area who says that he wants to promote mining, who says that he wants to promote energy in this state—say that the royalty rate on extractive minerals is going to be bumped up by so much with so little notice to business was terrible. How is a business supposed to budget for that sort of incremental increase with contracts for pricing locked in, with employee contracts locked in and with equipment prices locked in? Anyone who knows anything about the industry knows that most of these contracts are set for 12 to 18 months at least, so to have this atrocious extraction rate increased so dramatically is absolutely absurd and, quite frankly, it needs to be fixed.

I think we need to be proactive in thinking about the future. We need to deal with problems as and when they arise, and Clovelly Park is one such example of the government burying its head in the sand. The management of this issue has been appalling, and we have seen more events in the other house today in regard to this. At least the government's management style is consistent, and we know what to expect with this government: we know that it will react when something goes wrong—that is, to try to cover it up and pretend that it is not a problem—and then, when the truth comes out, blame everyone else for their failure, whether that be the federal government, to echo the words of my earlier colleague, or the higher currency rate.

The state is being struck down by the red tape that continues to be rolled out by the government. I just gave a perfect example that is affecting the mining industry, and we have heard the recent words of BHP. What you have there is a classic South Australian Labor mentality—an increase in costs so dramatic that it is no wonder that businesses are packing up and moving interstate and overseas.

The question is also: what will the government do about our current brain drain? What will they be doing to encourage our businesses to invest and expand in South Australia? There has been

some thought that remaining positive is the key to creating confidence; I disagree. I think what you have to do is make South Australia an attractive place for businesses to come to, to invest and to want to value-add and to create, and the example I gave of the mining industry is exactly the opposite of what the government should be doing. They should be creating a much better economic environment for businesses to come here and thrive.

In relation to the 'fun tax', in estimates I could not believe that departmental officials were not able to rule out the tax being applied to certain multicultural events that could be classified as not community events, which was absolutely absurd. The government talks about providing free public transport for the football season but then they talk about charging the Stadium Management Authority \$2.5 million for the service. So, obviously what we have here is a clear contradiction. Look, it is creative accounting, it is certainly creative accounting by this government but, let's face it, people in South Australia going to the footy are going to be slugged extra for their football tickets.

South Australia is certainly trailing behind on key economic indicators. Their plan so far is to introduce a car park tax, cut funding for small business, and cut funding for programs which support state productivity for science technology and information technology. I am not an economist but putting local business in a headlock is not the way to stimulate the economy and reduce unemployment.

There are many economic reports out there at the moment that predict a very bad improvement in economic growth for South Australia. Of all states South Australia currently has the poorest result in retail spending, and the policies implemented and adopted, you would think, would encourage business confidence and should encourage investment but instead what they have done is quite the opposite.

Our state's output as a percentage share of the national economy will continue to fall from its current level of just over 6 per cent and our growth is expected to be at 2 per cent per year over the next 10 years, down from 3 per cent in the previous 20 years. I think it is time that the government takes an honest approach to our economic position. Stop blaming everyone else. You have had the reins here for over 12 years. It is time to get this place moving. Let's address the economy, let's address this brain drain.

Our jobless rate is up 24.2 per cent over the decade in the area that I represent and I see them every day, young people walking in off the street from the east and from the north-east of Adelaide; it is quite bad out there at the moment.

The government also seems oblivious to the rising cost of living. We saw that ESCOSA has completed an 18-month investigation into water pricing and the government has finally admitted that SA Water's income or dividends are actually used to bolster the bottom line of the budget and that stinks, quite frankly. Whilst on that topic, what about the sewerage charge? We see here that the sewerage charge has nothing to do with sewerage. It is a land tax and all it is a transfer of revenue. What we see here are miners and businesses subsidising household water use which means that the cost of operating a business in South Australia goes up.

One has to really ask the question: does the government not realise who employs people in the state? Ultimately, it is not the government, it is business, and to increase employment you need to support business because they are the ones who actually employ the people, they are the ones with their mortgages on the line trying to value-add, trying to get this place moving. They are the ones that we need to support and you would have thought that this budget and this process would have highlighted that that was the priority and the agenda of the government, and it is simply not.

ESCOSA has also said that a very messy web of cross-charges and cross-subsidies that ultimately result in a net payment to the government is not the way to fund this state. Sewerage charges are a tax on the capital value of houses and have no relationship to water use at all. The government simply should not be revenue raising through our water usage. Let's face it, it is a tax— it is a hidden tax that the government is not being transparent about.

With regard to contamination, the government has shown its incompetence time and time again and just like the record budget blowout last year it has broken yet another record. The absolute incompetence over Clovelly Park, with ministers deflecting and dodging more than dodge ball, is absolutely unprecedented. I am actually embarrassed on behalf of the people of South Australia that

this has happened. The government said there is no evidence of any adverse health effects for Mitchell Park because it had not even tested the area. Well, go and do the testing that needs to be done. This government should put the safety of residents over their own political interests.

We saw a great example where they put their political interests aside recently in regard to the issue at Families SA. They got on the front foot and they should have done exactly the same thing with this contamination issue, but no, they have not. They only acted when the opposition brought them to account. I am glad the Premier has finally apologised, but now he needs to do something to solve the problem.

We finally saw a backflip from the Premier on providing free health checks to people in the surrounding area, but we need to know more detail. In my opinion, the government needs to be proactive in making sure that testing is done and anticipate the homes which may be, and will be, affected in the future. I am certainly interested to see what this new engagement paradigm will consist of. Apparently 'new engagement paradigm' means they will talk clearly to residents. I am glad to see that we are off to a good start, but I am hoping that dodging half of the allocated questions is not a feature of this new paradigm.

In regard to naval shipbuilding, a Labor government again seems to be very quick to pass the buck to the feds, yet what has been done to support investment in this state over the 12 years they have been in government? That question seriously needs to be asked. South Australia is set to lose multiple jobs directly, indirectly maybe thousands, in the shipbuilding industry and several more related to it. What people do not understand, and they need to, is that what this government has done is create a hostile environment for investment in this state. It has created a high cost environment for businesses to do business in this state. It is called sovereign risk.

Companies, be they interstate or overseas, look at these things. They look at who is in charge. They think, 'Can I get on with these people? Can I have some certainty when I am going into debt, when I am investing in the future? When I am looking on a world map, do I invest in South Australia?'

When you have a government that just does not understand business, when you have a government that does things like increase that mining extraction royalty rate, it just goes to show that they have not learnt their lesson. You would think that after the mothballed Olympic Dam expansion they would have learnt their lesson, but no. They have not learnt their lesson. Unfortunately, this is the way it is at the moment and it needs to change.

Then we go to police. In relation to police, we know that the government is cutting multiple full-time jobs from the prison system down the track. We also heard from the relevant minister that we may not even have enough beds in our prison system in years to come. Peter Christopher from the Public Service Association is saying that the correctional services department is having to use cells in police stations which were never intended for long-term use.

This has massive implications across the state, and the government needs to take this on board and do something about it because it is related to our law enforcement and our courts. What are we going to do with these people? These issues are quite serious. The government needs to stop having a look, stop just making plans about plans, and get additional beds in our prison system. They need to do something in this regard.

We know, we have been told now, and the government has been told that they will not have enough beds, so the time for procrastinating and time-wasting is over. The government needs a solution now so that we do not have prisoners incarcerated for long periods of time at police stations. We have already heard about the toil and the pressures that these good police officers already have. Building in existing prisons is certainly not something you can do overnight and it is certainly something that the government tends to shy away from because it is expensive. Planning for these major building programs needs to begin immediately.

The biggest problem that came out during estimates, and the government shows it time and time again, was that they are not proactive but reactive. What I would like to see from this government in future estimates is to see that they are getting on the front foot, to see that they are not using estimates as a way—and we all saw examples of it—to shy away from accountability. Government

ministers are here to do a job. They are here to provide responsible government to the good people of South Australia. We saw the better ministers do that, but some need to have a good hard look at themselves, let's face it.

I draw the attention of the house to one tick of approval, and that is in regard to multicultural grants. I am pleased to say that in 2014-15 Multicultural SA will allocate approximately \$1.274 million in grants and contributions, which I am led to believe represents an increase in the amount of grant funding allocated as a result of commitment by the government to provide that extra \$350,000 during the election to our multicultural communities.

I represent the electorate of Hartley, and we have an array of multicultural communities, specifically but not limited to the Italian community, the Greek community, the Chinese community and the Indian community. I talk to these community groups regularly, and I am pleased that they will be allocated this extra grant money. These groups, and the various community organisations they are part of, will certainly be pitching for this funding.

It is good to see in particular that Italian community groups and Italian festas are being supported by the government in this multicultural funding this year. I represent many Italian constituents in the area—about 18 per cent of my constituents—and I am delighted to see that extra funding. I can say that these community groups will certainly be applying for this funding, and I would like to see funding in this area maintained and supported.

These community groups do fantastic work for the local community through passing on language skills. There is also a cultural element, and any community group that supports the family unit is also commendable, and many of these do that. You often see many hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people attending these community groups in the electorate, so I am very happy to see the support in Multicultural SA's funding and its commitment there.

Mr WILLIAMS (MacKillop) (17:31): I was to hear the words of the member for Ashford. She obviously had a different experience than I had during the estimates. Having been in this place for a considerable time—in fact, the same amount of time as the member for Ashford—I can say that the experience has not improved. To my mind it is high time parliament took action to change the estimates system. We should be asking ourselves what is the purpose of the estimates. Whatever the answer to that question might be, I am absolutely certain that the estimates process does not fulfil that purpose. I cannot imagine what purpose it fulfils, to be quite honest.

The member for Ashford suggested that it is important for government backbenchers and members to be able to ask Dorothy Dixers to give the government an opportunity to showcase what it is doing. I would argue that the government has ample opportunity at other times to do that, and the one that obviously comes to mind is the opportunity for ministerial statements in the house every day that the house sits. The government does make extensive use of ministerial statements, and I again argue that most of the Dorothy Dixers that I heard asked (and have heard asked traditionally) and the answers to them could be made as ministerial statements, and that would be a better use of the parliament's time to put that information on the public record in that way.

I do not think that having government-sponsored Dorothy Dixers fulfils any purpose whatsoever, and that is one of the first reforms we should make. I was delighted that the member for Ashford, notwithstanding that statement, did say that she hopes we will try to reform the process: I totally agree with her there.

I think it is a nonsense that shadow ministers who sit in the other place are unable to come and ask questions of ministers. For goodness sake, we have ministers in the other place who come into the committees of the House of Assembly and take questions in those areas of their responsibility, yet we do not allow shadow ministers, who obviously are the members of the opposition who are most across the relevant issues. I think we should very quickly overcome that anomaly and allow shadow ministers in the other place to participate in the estimates process.

One of the big failures of the estimates process is the fact that, just like question time, it is question time, it is never answer time. Notwithstanding that the ministers bring in a huge team of advisers and departmental officers to help them, ministers by and large seek to answer the questions themselves. There are two problems with this, to my mind. Firstly, a number of ministers, in my experience, obviously do not know the answer to the question.

They sit there and ask the adviser or the departmental officer, whether it be the head of the department or the chief financial officer or whatever, get an answer whispered to them and then relay the answer to the committee. To be quite honest, I think the committee would serve a much better purpose if ministers were not even there, if the members of the house—including ministers, if they wanted to participate—were able to ask the bureaucrats the meaning of the lines in the budget.

This brings me to another issue that has concerned me for some considerable time, and that is the amount of secrecy that occurs within government in this state. I say this has concerned me for a considerable time. I was at a conference in New Zealand a few years ago and a paper was presented to the conference about the Official Information Act and the way that they handle what we call freedom of information in this jurisdiction. They have a completely different system and a completely different culture to what we have here in South Australia.

I was in New Zealand last week and I had a meeting with their ombudsman and got a briefing on the way that their system works. Basically, when somebody applies under their Official Information Act for access to a government document, if the agency chooses not to release the document they then have the right of appeal to the ombudsman. The simple rule that the ombudsman runs over that request is: what harm would be caused if the document were released? By and large, if it is simply a political harm to the government of the day or an embarrassment to the minister, that is not considered reason enough not to release the document.

It works in practice to such an extent that when ministers take submissions to cabinet, by and large by the time the cabinet meeting is completed the submission in many cases has already been put on the agency's website or the minister's website. Not just the supporting reports, etc. that sit behind the submission, but the submission itself and the recommendations are published. We asked in the house in the last sitting week of one of the ministers whether they had taken a submission on a particular matter to cabinet on a particular date. Obviously, the opposition was aware that this had happened and wanted a confirmation of it.

The response from the government was, 'We are not going to discuss the deliberations of cabinet.' The reality is that that is not a deliberation of the cabinet. A deliberation of the cabinet is just that: it is how they deliberate on the information they have in front of them. The information that is presented to cabinet is not a deliberation of cabinet.

We have this incredible culture here in South Australia where it has become our culture that the ability to hide behind cabinet secrecy has been extended to the nth degree. I was delighted with the information that I gleaned at the meeting I had with the ombudsman in New Zealand, because I think it is a much more open system and a much more open process than what we have here in South Australia.

Getting back to the estimates process, one of the things that disturbs me about the process is simply the cost to the taxpayer of the estimates process. I have no idea what it is but I know that many bureaucrats spend many hours preparing briefing notes for ministers and preparing lengthy statements for some ministers to read out so as to shut down the amount of time available for the opposition to question them. It is just an absolute outrage that taxpayers' money is spent for those activities.

Just across the ditch in New Zealand, I spoke to one of the ministers there and said that we were about to go through the estimates process and lamented what an awful process it is and how ineffectual it is. She said, 'But you've got all the documentation behind the budget so you can see all the detail of what sits behind the budget.' I said, 'No, we don't get any of that. We never see that.'

She said that in New Zealand not only do shadow ministers and the opposition get hold of just the basic budget papers but they get all of the documentation that sits behind it, so they have access to all of that documentation created during the bilaterals process. So, the examination of the budget is actually a proper and true examination because the opposition has access to the information that allows them to ask sensible questions.

At the moment—and I have been involved in the process for a number of years—you are flying by the seat of your pants pretty regularly and making lots of assumptions and you are out on a

fishing exercise most of the time. I think we have a cultural problem here in South Australia and it comes to the fore during the estimates committees.

One of the reforms, as well as allowing members in the other place if they are shadow ministers to participate, is that I think we should open up the whole of government here in South Australia. I think we need to seriously reform our freedom of information law. We need to make documents that are prepared for government available for everybody to see. It is the government of the people. The government is not there just for the executive; it is not a plaything of the executive.

That is why I suspect governments, on a fairly regular basis, get themselves into trouble, because they are working in this silo of secrecy and they spend half their time and half their energy protecting themselves. It seems that in New Zealand that has never occurred, it has never been part of their culture and their government seems to operate fairly well and fairly effectively so I think it is something that we should look at and certainly it is something that I intend to do a fair bit more work on.

I have a lot of information that was provided to me by the ombudsman over there, which I have not had a chance to read yet, but she gave me a little stick that I can put into my computer. I am not quite sure how many nights it is going to keep me awake but it is going to be more than a couple of weeks, I imagine.

That is my contribution. It is probably the 16th or 17th contribution I have made about the appalling state of the estimates process. I am not the first one and I will not be the last one from either side of the house who has made an impassioned plea for us to seriously reform the estimates process. One of the problems we have is that the process is time-limited and so ministers who have a problem within their agency or within their administrative unit want to get the process out of the way with as little damage to themselves and their government as possible.

So they will read out a lengthy opening statement, which is an absolute nonsense. There is no new information there. Then again, if there was, they could utilise a ministerial statement on any day that the house sits to get that information out. It should not be used as a way of cutting down questions from the opposition.

As I have said, if the questions were able to be directed to the people, the bureaucrats who actually know the answers and know what they are talking about, it would be a much better process. The time restriction on each section of the budget, again, is a nonsense. I think we would get a lot more openness and honesty and a lot better governance of the state if we were to remove that restriction and make it more open-ended in a time sense. These are just a couple of things, and I have probably mentioned them previously, but I think it is well worth mentioning them again.

There are a couple of things that have come to my attention—I told my whip that I might not use my 20 minutes; I could do with another half hour or so—that I want to bring up in this debate. Whilst I was in New Zealand I was horrified to get a couple of emails from my electorate office saying that the department of education was preventing children in a number of my schools from drinking water from the rainwater tanks at the schools.

We have this absurdity where they are removing taps from rainwater tanks and issuing an edict that the rainwater cannot be drunk. It is happening at Lucindale and at Bordertown, and apparently there is a policy within the department which says that where there is a town water supply children should not be allowed to drink water from a rainwater tank, notwithstanding the fact that on the department of water website there is a fact sheet about rainwater tanks which says that there is no real health risk in drinking rainwater. It says that if the roof is maintained and the tank is kept relatively clean and the water does not smell, by and large you can drink it.

Interestingly—and I need to do a bit more research into this—I have discovered that there are a number of schools in my electorate that have a mains water supply, yet the schools are being exempted from this policy and they will continue to allow the children to drink the rainwater, notwithstanding there being an SA Water supply. There are three schools and a kindergarten in the town of Naracoorte, where the use of rainwater for drinking purposes will continue, notwithstanding a town water supply.

I think I know the reason; in fact, I am sure I know reason, and I will come to that at a later date. It just points out the nonsense: that in schools such as the Lucindale Area School children are prevented from drinking rainwater, whereas in schools in Naracoorte, just up the road, children are allowed to continue to drink the rainwater. I can tell you that I am getting letters every day from constituents concerned about this and wanting me to do something about it, and I certainly intend to do something about it.

Another issue that has been brought to my attention—and I will probably take the rest of my four minutes on this—is infrastructure in South Australia. The opposition has complained many times about the way we procure infrastructure contracts in South Australia. It came to my attention a little while ago that a person I knew—he was not a constituent but a subcontractor in the civil construction area—was subcontracting to a major contractor who had the head contract on a number of major works here in South Australia.

I have to tell you that the way the subcontractors were treated by this major contractor was outrageous, absolutely outrageous. When variations occurred, the subcontractor was obliged to vary the contract and do the work subject to the variation, but then when the subcontractor put in the invoice for payment, it created an argument.

We are not talking about a few dollars, we are talking hundreds of thousands of dollars and sometimes millions of dollars. This person put to me that this is common practice across the industry and some of these major companies which have major contracts with the state brag that they spend most of their money employing lawyers and accountants so they can screw over the subcontractors.

I raised this matter with the Treasurer and, to his credit, in regard to the particular incident I raised with him he had the matter resolved. I thank him and congratulate him for doing that. Notwithstanding that, even though the matter was resolved and he was happy to finish the whole matter, the subcontractor was still out of pocket for a substantial amount of money.

I just bring that to the attention of the house because for a long time I have been concerned about procurement in this state. We often argue that we issue contracts to major companies from outside South Australia. I think one of the things we need to ensure when we are issuing major contracts is that we can break them up, and the only way these people can continue to work is by being subcontractors so they have a head contract with maybe the department of infrastructure, or DPTI, or whatever they call themselves these days. There certainly is a problem where subcontractors are being done over in this state on major projects.

I have not mentioned that I believe that we are getting poor value for money, too, on a number of these contracts, as well as seeing many of the subcontractors being dealt a very bad blow. I will conclude my remarks there but there are many other things that I would like to say about the estimates process.

Mr WINGARD (Mitchell) (17:52): Unlike the member for MacKillop, this is my first budget estimates reply speech, and it was an interesting experience for me as well. There were, as a few members have pointed out today, a number of longwinded speeches setting the scene for some of the questions, and some of the replies were very interesting as well and quite longwinded.

Perhaps the journalist in me was a little bit frustrated at times when the answers that were forthcoming did not perhaps answer the questions as such but were rather just a blurb or a statement related to the question. I know the member for Colton was a bit unhappy as I pursued a couple of questions when I thought the answers were not acceptable. I think in a perfect world answers fitting the question would be the ideal scenario.

I commend the Minister for Transport for not giving a longwinded speech before he started, but he is a very smooth professional who is very skilled in giving a longwinded answer without perhaps answering the question. One of those questions I found most interesting was about the new 'fun tax', as it has been labelled in public land, and that is the transport levy on events happening in and around Adelaide with over 5,000 people in attendance.

He was asked to list the events that this would be associated with, and his answer I think went for two to three minutes, maybe a little bit longer, potentially four minutes. It was very articulate but it did not actually list for the people of South Australia which events were going to be hit by this

tax. I found that a little disappointing and I think the people of South Australia deserve better, and they deserve to know which events are going to be hit with this tax. The government has brought it in and it is in the forward estimates raising \$1.7 million, from memory, over the next 12 months, and then upwards of \$3.89 million and up to \$4 million, I think, in the last year of forward estimates.

The figure is there. The government clearly knows what events it is going to hit and how it is going to raise its capital—it has budgeted for that—but they would not come forward and tell the people of South Australia where this tax is going to be applied, to which events it is going to be applied, and how they will be paying for it. I was a bit disappointed that the minister suggested that it was not a tax, and I find that a little bit offensive to the people of South Australia. He specifically said that it was not a tax or a levy, but I think the people of South Australia are smarter than that and they understand what a tax or a levy is and that, when you put a fee onto something, it will come back and people will have to pay for it.

Cleverly, he did make mention that this fee was going to go to the Stadium Management Authority in the case of football at AAMI Stadium. He said, 'We're going to put the fee onto the Stadium Management Authority', passing the buck to them. Of course, we all know that the Stadium Management Authority will have to pass it on to the people who use the Oval, be it the Crows or the Power or whoever using the stadium, and then they will have to pass it on to the football fans. It is very clear how it is going to happen. It is a tax, it is a levy, and it is getting passed down the line.

Members interjecting:

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WINGARD: Sorry, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Keep going. It is you we want to listen to.

Mr WINGARD: Sorry?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is you we cannot hear.

Mr WINGARD: Thank you. As I was saying, we know that it is a tax and a levy, and it is going to get passed down the line. It is very clear how that is going to go. It was a shame that the minister would not tell us which events it was going on. He did mention the football, and we know that it is going to start there, so all football fans will have to pay this fun tax or fun levy. It is not directed at the Stadium Management Authority.

It will have to be passed down to the football fans at the end of the line. That was one of my experiences throughout estimates. Again, it was the question that was asked. If the people of South Australia could know which events are going to be hit by this tax or levy, they would be greatly appreciative to receive that piece of information.

Some other stuff came out of estimates which I thought was very interesting as far as answering questions were concerned. We did have a chat with the road safety minister, and it was great to have the police here and to have them answering questions, and they were most informative in their answers. There were a number of questions that were asked of the Minister for Road Safety about the Motor Accident Commission, and he was point blank in his refusal to answer those questions.

There are a number of key issues because of the change in the MAC funding, which was outlined in the budget. It was raised that the MAC was going to be disbanded, sold off or shut down and that the money would be taken out and put back into revenue and other projects. There were some questions asked about how the future funding would happen for MAC projects. I think \$12 million a year is currently spent on the Motor Accident Commission in advertising and also education programs and community programs.

The state rescue helicopter is sponsored to the tune of around \$200,000 to \$250,000 a year, from what I am led to believe. There is great sponsorship in community football as well in the country regions of South Australia. I think that is to the tune of \$200,000 as well. Where is that money going to come from and is it guaranteed in the future now that MAC is being shut down?
Schoolies is another one. I really wanted to ask the road safety minister about that one because I think that it is vitally important. Schoolies do a marvellous job, in conjunction with a number of charities that help put that on. That is funded to the tune of \$400,000 a year. There is also the education the young people are given down there at Schoolies Weekend. I must say that I have a boy in year 12 this year, so he is going to be part of it. I have watched it unfold over the past couple of years with my children, and the job they do, and the safety element that is put into Schoolies, is absolutely outstanding. So, I am really keen to make sure that, with the sale of MAC, that funding can continue to that program. I seek leave to continue my remarks.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

LADY KINTORE COTTAGES (TRUST PROPERTY) AMENDMENT BILL

Final Stages

The Legislative Council agreed to the bill without any amendment.

At 17:59 the house adjourned until Tuesday 5 August 2014 at 11:00.

Answers to Questions

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

1 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (27 May 2014). What Indigenous programs, grants and funding were provided by each department or agency under the minister's portfolio for 2011 and in each case, were these funds recurrent, current, operational or capital expenditure?

The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier): I have been advised of the following:

In 2010-11, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (DPC-AARD) was provided with operating funding of \$24 million. This operating budget was totally allocated toward delivering Indigenous related programs and services.

| Purpose of Grant/Funding | Recipient | Amount (net) | Recurrent(R), Current(C), Operational(O), Capital Exp(CE) |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Essential Services Funding | Amata Community Inc | 1,315 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Davenport Community Council | 20,000 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Gerard Reserve Council | 22,000 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Nipapanha (Nepabunna) Community | 46,960 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Oak Valley (Maralinga) Inc | 60,304 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Point Pearce via Aboriginal Lands Trust | 26,000 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Raukkan Community Council | 35,070 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Umoona Community Council | 30,073 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Yalata Community Inc | 66,120 | R |
| Sponsorship for the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program | Jobs Australia Foundation | 2,500 | С |
| Aboriginal Visitors Scheme— Northern | Umoona Aged Care Aboriginal Corp | 10,148 | R |
| Aboriginal Visitors Scheme— Southern | Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc | 119,162 | R |
| Admin of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act | Aboriginal Lands Trust | 534,025 | R |
| Admin of the APY Land Rights Act | Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara | 1,294,000 | R |

| Purpose of Grant/Funding | Recipient | Amount (net) | Recurrent(R), Current(C), Operational(O), Capital Exp(CE) |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| Admin of the MT Land Rights Act | Maralinga Tjarutja | 366,700 | R |
| Assistance for Yuendumu Visitors in the City of Playford | City of Playford | 2,000 | С |
| Assistance with Indigenous Football Carnival Activities | Kadina FC Inc | 390 | С |

| Purpose of Grant/Funding | Recipient | Amount (net) | Recurrent(R), Current(C), Operational(O), Capital Exp(CE) |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Closing the Gap Clearing House Contribution 10/11 | Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs | 25,500 | R |
| Expansion of APY Functional Review | Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara | 35,000 | С |
| Implementation of Business Plan | Reconciliation South Australia Inc | 112,590 | R |
| Leadership Camp Canberra- Support for two Aboriginal students | Blue Light Christies Beach | 1,000 | С |
| Living Kaurna Warrirkkuttinya Respecting Event | ANTaR SA Inc | 1,000 | С |
| National Sorry Day | Journey of Healing | 5,000 | R |
| Office Admin & Community Support Funding | Kalttjiti Community Aboriginal Corp | 41,311 | С |
| Office Admin Budgets and Community Support Officers | Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation | 268,272 | С |
| Provision of Governance Support to six Aboriginal Councils | Community Business Bureau Inc | 65,455 | С |
| Purchase of Tools and Teaching Aids re Automotive Skills Centre | The Heights School | 1,500 | С |
| Reimbursement for Assistance for Yuendemu Displaced People | Anglicare SA Inc | 49,881 | С |

| Purpose of Grant/Funding | Recipient | Amount (net) | Recurrent(R), Current(C), Operational(O), Capital Exp(CE) |
|--|---|--------------|--|
| Re-introduction of the HF Radio Transceiver Network on the APY Lands | Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara | 79,950 | С |
| SA Link-Up Program | Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc | 72,802 | R |
| SA NAIDOC Committee Activities 2011 | National Aboriginal Cultural Institute | 15,000 | R |
| Sponsorship of SA Aboriginal Careers Expo | Dreaming Connection | 2,000 | С |
| Symposium Rights of Indigenous Peoples Sponsorship | University of South Australia | 1,000 | С |
| Table at 3rd Anniversary Apology Breakfast | Reconciliation South Australia Inc | 455 | С |
| Yalata Swimming Pool Maintenance Costs | Yalata Anangu School (DECS) | 100,000 | R |

| Contact Name | Project Description | Amount exc GST | Type of expenditure |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Adelaide Fringe Inc | Work placements with the Adelaide Fringe 2012 | \$20,000 | Current |
| Ansell, Jack | 'DillJa Rhythm' to record a 6 track EP for debut | \$5,138 | Current |
| Cleary, Terry | Travel costs for Indigenous actors and crew to participate in screening of film 'Yudum' in Oodnadatta | \$1,260 | Current |
| Ernabella Anangu School | Assistance for Choir's participation in Adelaide Carols by Candlelight— 18 December 2011 | \$15,000 | Current |
| Ernabella Arts Inc | Ernabella artists residency with the Jam Factory | \$10,800 | Current |

| Contact Name | Project Description | Amount exc GST | Type of expenditure |
|---|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Giles, Leslie | Conducting art workshops during the 2011 Spirit Festival | \$803 | Current |
| Hartley, John | The EarthSong Rainbow Dreaming Journey | \$12,095 | Current |
| JamFactory Contemporary Craft & Design | Mentorship at JamFactory Ceramic Studio for Christina Gollan | \$6,500 | Current |
| JamFactory Contemporary Craft & Design | Mentorship program for Christina Gollan and Daisybell Virgin | \$11,400 | Current |
| Karrikarrinya Theatre Collective | Theatre production of 'Casting Doubts' at Tandanya | \$12,934 | Current |
| Keeler, Sonny | To produce album of original songs for the purpose of promotion and release | \$7,434 | Current |
| Music SA | Towards Seth Dodd to attend course in Artist Management | \$365 | Current |
| Music SA | ATSI Music Industry Officer (Corey Noll) | \$11,418 | Current |
| Music SA | Extension of ATSI music industry development officer placement (Michael Collard) | \$12,500 | Current |
| Reg Dodd & Marree Aboriginal School | Installation of exhibition titled 'Small in Space' at Yarta Purtli Gallery, Port Augusta | \$3,433 | Current |
| Rigney, Tanya | Aboriginal Youth Music Program | \$4,000 | Current |
| Sharrock, Peter | Solo exhibition at Tandanya | \$3,660 | Current |
| Stewart, Nellie | Solo exhibition at Vivien Anderson Gallery | \$8,300 | Current |

| Contact Name | Project Description | Amount exc GST | Type of expenditure |
|-----------------|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Stier, Jonathan | To record 20 track album titled 'Soul Hop 101' | \$5,897 | Current |

| Contact Name | Project Description | Amount exc GST | Type of expenditure |
|--|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Tandanya (National Aboriginal Cultural Institute) | Tandanya mentor program | \$12,697 | Current |
| Telfer, Karl | Bulto Yittangga: Traces— Kuru Kuru—Kindle the fire | \$14,710 | Current |
| Willding, Ian | Exhibition of new work by Ian Willding and Ali Baker titled ALIAN at Tandanya | \$5,686 | Current |
| Tandanya (National Aboriginal Cultural Institute) | 2011-12 Operating Grant (1st instalment) | \$402,500 | Operational |
| Tandanya (National Aboriginal Cultural Institute) | 2010-11 Operating Grant (2nd instalment) | \$383,000 | Operational |
| Tandanya (National Aboriginal Cultural Institute) | Deadly; between heaven and hell | \$197,558 | Current |
| Tandanya (National Aboriginal Cultural Institute) | Produce & deliver the 2012 Spirit Festival within the umbrella of the 2012 Adelaide Fringe Festival | \$250,000 | Current |
| Tandanya (National Aboriginal Cultural Institute) | Triennial 'Community Arts Development' funding of \$18,000 per year for three years (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11) + extra year 2011-12 (2010-11 instalment) | \$18,000 | Current |
| Tandanya (National Aboriginal Cultural Institute) | Triennial 'Community Arts Development' funding of \$18,000 per year for three years (2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11) + extra year 2011-12 (2011-12 instalment) | \$18,000 | Current |
| Ananguku Arts & Culture Aboriginal Corporation | Funding for housing on the APY lands | \$450,000 | Capital |

| Contact Name | Project Description | Amount exc GST | Type of expenditure |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| Ananguku Arts & Culture Aboriginal Corporation | Indigenous Professional development and training activities | \$33,890 | Current |
| Ananguku Arts & Culture Aboriginal Corporation | Indigenous Visual Arts Professional Development and Training | \$34,650 | Current |
| Ananguku Arts & Culture Aboriginal Corporation | Industry Development Triennial Funding 2008-2011 | \$93,466 | Operational |
| Kurruru Youth Performing Arts Inc | Kurruru 2011 Regional Program | \$30,000 | Current |
| Kurruru Youth Performing Arts Inc | Once off funding | \$10,000 | Current |

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

| Contact Name | Project Description | Amount exc GST | Type of expenditure |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------------|
| No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability | Knowing Home: creative development of a theatre piece about the place and meaning of 'home' in the lives of 16 disabled ATSI performers | \$18,740 | Current |
| Adelaide Festival Centre | Our Mob 2011 | \$15,620 | Current |
| Ausdance SA | 2011 ASAIDA (Ausdance SA Indigenous Dance Alliance) | \$14,000 | Current |
| Yalata Community Inc | The 'Drumbeat at Yalata Project', workshop program | \$3,044 | Current |
| Yunyarinyi Community Inc (Kenmore Park Station) | Iriti Nyinantja' project 2011 (Donald Fraser oral history project—APY Lands)' | \$15,000 | Current |

Indigenous activity was also delivered and supported by the agencies below.

| Contact Name | Project Description | Amount exc GST | Type of expenditure |
|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Carclew Youth Arts | Investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander projects (including Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts funding) | \$278,179 (2010-11) \$218,990 (2011-12) | Current |
| Country Arts SA | Indigenous-related programs and expenditure, including: Regional arts grants Visual arts & performing arts touring Regional Centre of Culture-Murray Bridge Indigenous arts officer program | \$289,787 (2010-11) \$456,507 (2011-12) | Current / Operational |

In addition, a significant number of agencies and organisations are funded through Arts SA, including the Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, South Australian Museum and others, which include Indigenous artists and projects in their core programs.

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

7 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (27 May 2014). What Indigenous programs, grants and funding were provided by each department or agency under the minister's portfolio for 2011 and in each case, were these funds recurrent, current, operational or capital expenditure?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing): I am advised of the following:

The South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) provided grants totaling \$35,000 to Gulf Getaways (a non-Indigenous owned business) in 2011 for the development of a new tourism experience presented by local Indigenous people at Tickle Belly Hill outside of Quorn. Of this funding, \$25,000 was a contribution towards the development of fixed infrastructure, and \$10,000 was allocated towards marketing and promotion initiatives.

There was no further funding towards Indigenous programs or grants during 2011.

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

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| Essential Services Funding | Davenport Community Council | 20,000 | R |
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| Essential Services Funding | Yalata Community Inc | 66,120 | R |
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| Aboriginal Visitors Scheme— Northern | Umoona Aged Care Aboriginal Corp | 10,148 | R |
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| Admin of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act | Aboriginal Lands Trust | 534,025 | R |
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| Admin of the MT Land Rights Act | Maralinga Tjarutja | 366,700 | R |
| Assistance for Yuendumu Visitors in the City of Playford | City of Playford | 2,000 | С |
| Assistance with Indigenous Football Carnival Activities | Kadina FC Inc | 390 | С |
| Closing the Gap Clearing House Contribution 10/11 | Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs | 25,500 | R |
| Expansion of APY Functional Review | Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara | 35,000 | С |
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| Yalata Community Inc | The 'Drumbeat at Yalata Project', workshop program | \$3,044 | Current |
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| Country Arts SA | Indigenous-related programs and expenditure, including: Regional arts grants Visual arts & performing arts touring Regional Centre of Culture-Murray Bridge Indigenous arts officer program | \$289,787 (2010-11) \$456,507 (2011-12) | Current / Operational |

In addition, a significant number of agencies and organisations are funded through Arts SA, including the Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, South Australian Museum and others, which include Indigenous artists and projects in their core programs.

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

31 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (27 May 2014). What Indigenous programs, grants and funding were provided by each department or agency under the minister's portfolio for 2011 and in each case, were these funds recurrent, current, operational or capital expenditure?

The Hon. A. PICCOLO (Light—Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety): The Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills has been advised:

An answer to this question was previously provided in 2012 and can be found in the House of Assembly *Hansard*, Tuesday 27 November 2012, on pages 3888 and 3889.

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

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The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL (Mawson—Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Minister for Forests, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport, Minister for Racing): The Minister for Recreation and Sport has received this advice:

The Office for Recreation and Sport provides a range of funding opportunities, capacity building and participation programs which directly benefit Aboriginal people. This is achieved through a combination of Federal (Indigenous Sport Program) and State funding. In 2011, the following programs were provided:

- 70 participation programs with a total of 5,414 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) participants.
- 7 coaching and officiating training programs, with a total of 51 ATSI participants completing an accreditation in coaching or officiating.
- A total of 333 successful applicants for the Club Fee Subsidy program, with \$13,590 distributed.

The following one-off, non-recurrent Office for Recreation and Sport grants were also approved within 2011:

| Grantee | Purpose | Funding Stream | Year | Amount |
|---|---|--|---------|-------------|
| South Australian Netball Association Incorporated | Netball SA Aboriginal Trainee | Recreation and Sport Traineeship Incentive Grant Program | 2010-11 | \$5,000.00 |
| Surfing South Australia Incorporated | Indigenous Regional and Metro Surf Education Program | Move It! Making Communities Active Program | 2010-11 | \$15,000.00 |
| Adelaide Aboriginal Community Sports and Recreation Association Incorporated | Northern Suburbs Aboriginal Physical Activity Program | Move It! Making Communities Active Program | 2010-11 | \$15,000.00 |
| Males In Black Incorporated | 2011 National Indigenous Golf Championships | Statewide Enhancement Program – Emergency Funding | 2011-12 | \$1,000.00 |
| Port Pirie Regional Aboriginal Community Centre Incorporated | Aboriginal Healthy Hearts: Active Community Gym | Move It! Making Communities Active Program | 2011-12 | \$20,400.00 |
| | | | TOTAL | \$56,400.00 |

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

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The Hon. J.W. WEATHERILL (Cheltenham—Premier): I have been advised of the following:

In 2010-11, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Division (DPC-AARD) was provided with operating funding of \$24 million. This operating budget was totally allocated toward delivering Indigenous related programs and services.

| Purpose of Grant/Funding | Recipient | Amount (net) | Recurrent(R), Current(C), Operational(O), Capital Exp(CE) |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Essential Services Funding | Amata Community Inc | 1,315 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Davenport Community Council | 20,000 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Gerard Reserve Council | 22,000 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Nipapanha (Nepabunna) Community | 46,960 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Oak Valley (Maralinga) Inc | 60,304 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Point Pearce via Aboriginal Lands Trust | 26,000 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Raukkan Community Council | 35,070 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Umoona Community Council | 30,073 | R |
| Essential Services Funding | Yalata Community Inc | 66,120 | R |
| Sponsorship for the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program | Jobs Australia Foundation | 2,500 | С |
| Aboriginal Visitors Scheme— Northern | Umoona Aged Care Aboriginal Corp | 10,148 | R |
| Aboriginal Visitors Scheme— Southern | Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement Inc | 119,162 | R |
| Admin of the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act | Aboriginal Lands Trust | 534,025 | R |
| Admin of the APY Land Rights Act | Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara | 1,294,000 | R |

| Purpose of Grant/Funding | Recipient | Amount (net) | Recurrent(R), Current(C), Operational(O), Capital Exp(CE) |
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| Admin of the MT Land Rights Act | Maralinga Tjarutja | 366,700 | R |
| Assistance for Yuendumu Visitors in the City of Playford | City of Playford | 2,000 | С |
| Assistance with Indigenous Football Carnival Activities | Kadina FC Inc | 390 | С |
| Closing the Gap Clearing House Contribution 10/11 | Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs | 25,500 | R |

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| Adelaide Festival Centre | Our Mob 2011 | \$15,620 | Current |
| Ausdance SA | 2011 ASAIDA (Ausdance SA Indigenous Dance Alliance) | \$14,000 | Current |
| Yalata Community Inc | The 'Drumbeat at Yalata Project', workshop program | \$3,044 | Current |
| Yunyarinyi Community Inc (Kenmore Park Station) | Iriti Nyinantja' project 2011 (Donald Fraser oral history project—APY Lands)' | \$15,000 | Current |

| Contact Name | Project Description | Amount exc GST | Type of expenditure |
|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| Carclew Youth Arts | Investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander projects (including Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts funding) | \$278,179 (2010-11) \$218,990 (2011-12) | Current |
| Country Arts SA | Indigenous-related programs and expenditure, including: Regional arts grants Visual arts & performing arts touring Regional Centre of Culture – Murray Bridge Indigenous arts officer program | \$289,787 (2010-11) \$456,507 (2011-12) | Current / Operational |

In addition, a significant number of agencies and organisations are funded through Arts SA, including the Adelaide Festival and Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Festival Centre Trust, South Australian Museum and others, which include Indigenous artists and projects in their core programs.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

50 Dr McFETRIDGE (Morphett) (27 May 2014). Why have questions Nos 505, 507, 508, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 622 and 623 from the Second Session, 52nd Parliament not been answered?

The Hon. Z.L. BETTISON (Ramsay—Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Minister for Social Housing, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Ageing, Minister for Youth, Minister for Volunteers): I have been advised:

All House of Assembly questions on notice from the 2nd Session of the 52nd Parliament have lapsed due to the proroguing of the 52nd Parliament.